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THE Full90



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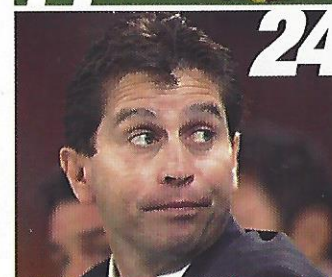
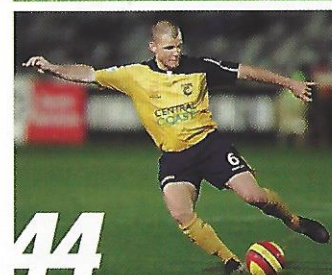
Reckon you know a lot about football in Australia? Then take our quiz

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TWO DRAWS, A SCREAMING WINNER IN QUEENSLAND AND MORE ROMARIO / KEVIN AIRS

Frank Farina notched up his first win in the Hyundai A-League but he's still got his work cut out to guide Roar to a place in the finals.

The Queenslanders edged up to sixth place after their slimmest of wins against Perth, but with the Mariners and Jets both drawing, they stayed above the banana benders.

Newcastle will be rueing not taking three points back across the Tasman with them, and by the end of the season, they could live to regret not killing off the Knights.

Sydney's draw with the Mariners kept them firmly in second place, but seriously damaged any hope they might have had of catching Melbourne at the top of the table.

Sasho Petrovski controversially went into print on the day of the clash blasting boss Terry Butcher's insistence on a lone striker formation

which he said was "killing us".

The lack of goals backed up his argument – but Butcher is probably more concerned about not losing any more matches.

And after all, this was Sydney's first game of the season without scoring, and only Victory have scored more than them.

Romario's stint at Adelaide again failed to net expected on-field results against the Melbourne juggernaut and there's little danger of him breaking his 1000-goal mark while in Oz.

It would definitely be nice to see him score just one before he goes home though...

The Knights picked up a rare point from their draw, but it makes little difference to another dreadful season for the New Zealand side, who are still lodged at the foot of the ladder and hopelessly out of touch.

IN THE BOX

GOALS

7

YELLOW CARDS

13

(plus two straight reds)

QUICKEST GOAL

Joel Griffiths' for the Jets

GOAL OF THE WEEK

McKay's winner for Roar

BIGGEST CROWD

16,378 turned out to watch Romario



FAST FACT

That was Roar's first win since round eight.

ROAR 1 GLORY 0

If Roar had any chance of staying in contention for a place in the finals, a win here was vital.

But their scoring touch still escaped them. They threw everything at Glory, peppering the Perth goal with attempt after attempt, but even Damian Mori couldn't find the back of the net.

Glory barely got a look in as they mounted a valiant defence against the Roar onslaught... and almost held the home side to a draw, thanks to cracking 'keeping by Perth's Tommi Tomich.

But with just ten minutes left on the clock, Matt McKay connected with a poor clearance, looped the ball over the defence and past Tomich for a stunning last gasp winner.

STATISTICS GLORY		
21	ATTEMPTS ON GOAL	16
9	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	7
5	KEEPER SAVES	7
5	CORNERS	4
2	OFFSIDES	3
45%	POSSESSION	55%



FAST FACT

This result helped make it the lowest scoring round of the season.

MARINERS 0 SYDNEY 0

Central Coast had the chance to slip into third place on the ladder... but the woodwork at Bluetongue Stadium twice denied them.

Nik Mrdja's screaming free kick beat the wall and the goalie, but almost shattered the post as it rattled Sydney to the core.

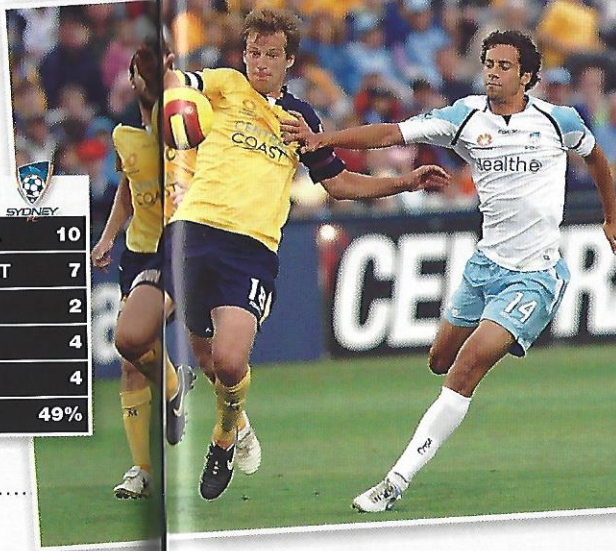
Soon after Andre Gumprecht was again defeated by the furniture when a wayward cross looked destined for the top left corner,

STATISTICS

12	ATTEMPTS ON GOAL	10
4	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	7
3	KEEPER SAVES	2
8	CORNERS	4
3	OFFSIDES	4
51%	POSSESSION	49%

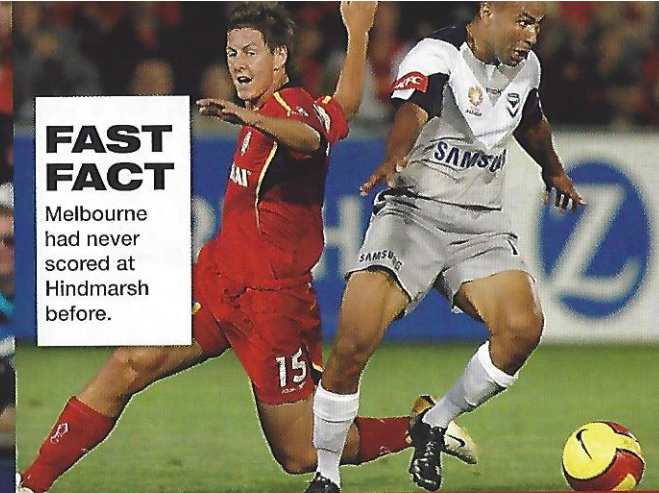
but the bar saved Clint Bolton's blushes.

The Mariners dominated most of the first half. Sydney fought back but the tight game could have gone either way, and only a match-saving Mariners tackle in the last minute stopped Steve Corica.



FAST FACT

Melbourne had never scored at Hindmarsh before.



UNITED 1 VICTORY 3

It takes a lot to upstage a World Cup legend playing in a Hyundai A-League match... but Adelaide 'keeper Robert Bajic managed it.

His wild kick at Fred earned him a red card and put United on the back foot after just 13 minutes. Luckily for Adelaide, referee Mark Shield evened the teams when he controversially red carded Victory's Grant Brebner seven minutes later.

Meanwhile goal-shy Romario once again failed to make it onto the scoresheet. Kevin Muscat scored from the spot after Bajic's dismissal and Fernando headed a great equaliser just before half-time.

Danny Allsopp added to his tally after the hour mark, and Fred put it beyond Adelaide's reach as full-time loomed for a thoroughly convincing Melbourne victory.

STATISTICS		
14	ATTEMPTS ON GOAL	15
10	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	9
1	KEEPER SAVES	6
7	CORNERS	7
1	OFFSIDES	4
53%	POSSESSION	47%





FAST FACT

The Jets have still only lost once in seven games under Gary Van Egmond.

KNIGHTS 1 JETS 1

It's the tie that strikes fear into the hearts of all their league rivals – a visit to the New Zealand Knights' invincible fortress of Auckland.

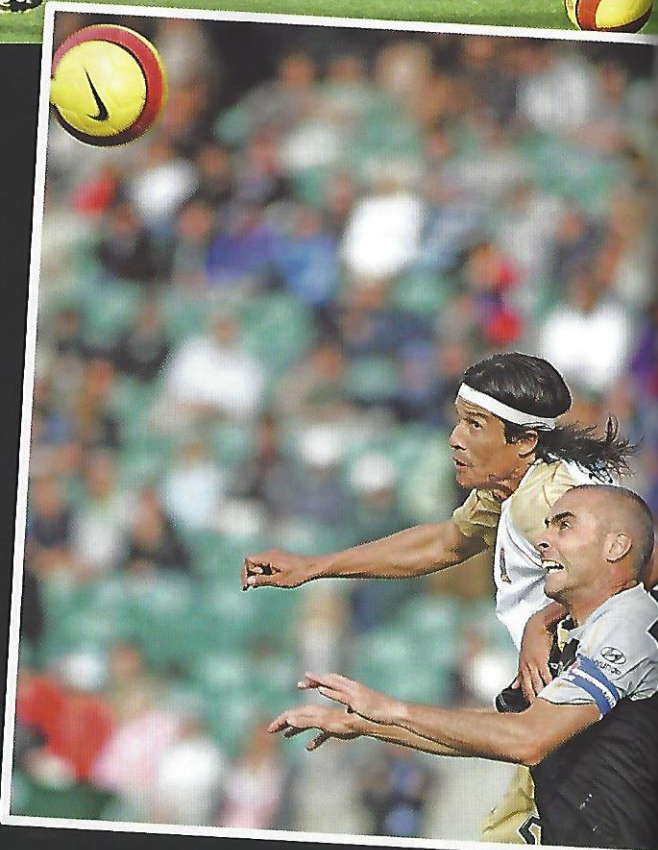
Oh hang on, the season has shown that's completely wrong, hasn't it? Actually, maybe not. Any team that can't win there seriously jeopardises any hope of a place in the finals.

The Jets looked to have it in the bag when Joel Griffiths struck home after 15 minutes and were in total control. But a needless handball earned the Knights a penalty – and the score was tied.

The equaliser took the sting out of the Jets who were unable to find a winner, and came away with a draw which may have wrecked their run to the finals.

STATISTICS

10	ATTEMPTS ON GOAL	18
5	ATTEMPTS ON TARGET	10
5	KEEPER SAVES	1
4	CORNERS	6
1	OFFSIDES	7
42%	POSSESSION	58%



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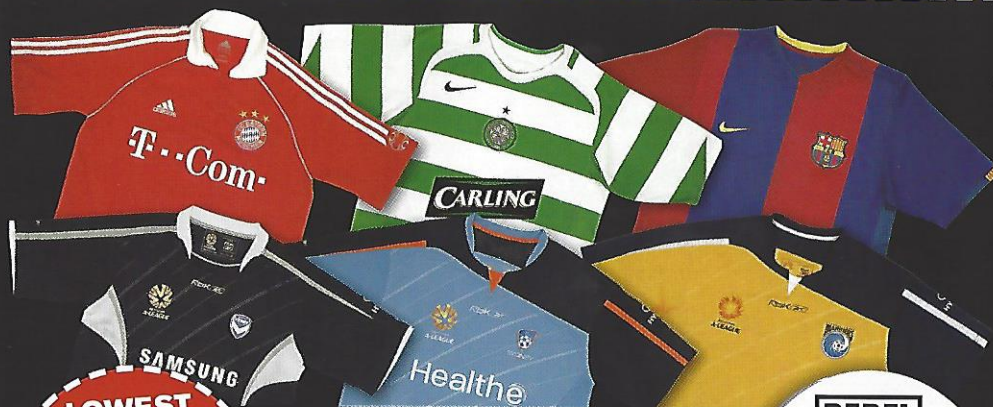
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The round wrap

IS YOUR FAVOURITE TEAM SHAPING UP TO TAKE THE POINTS IN ROUND 16?

7pm Thursday, 7 December
Queensland Roar vs Newcastle Jets
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

This Thursday's match – their second last home match of the year – is a crucial test for the Roar, who from next week face a run of four matches away. They've finally found some defensive solidarity, with last weekend's clean sheet their first since September when they were clear in second place. Frank Farina is still finding his feet with his new squad. The focus will be on whether he returns Chad Gibson to midfield after his send-off two weeks ago, and if he persists with starting young

Chris Grossman.

The Jets gave up a chance of going fourth with their stumble in New Zealand last week. The club still has plenty of time, but must keep picking up points on their travels. From 1 January, Newcastle will enjoy home ground advantage in three of their last four matches.

Form: Queensland W I L L I

Newcastle d w I W D

Fact: Last week's win was the Roar's first in seven matches, but was also the club's first clean sheet since round five.

8pm Friday, 8 December
Melbourne Victory vs Sydney FC
Telstra Dome, Melbourne

A Melbourne victory here against Sydney could be enough to secure them the premiership, depending on how Adelaide fare on Sunday. It would be an appropriate setting, in front of what may be their biggest crowd of the season, against the second-placed side, who happen to be their biggest rivals. Daniel Piorkowski is hoping to return to the side after missing last week's win against Adelaide with a hamstring injury.

Sydney FC nabbed an important point in Gosford last weekend

without fully hitting their stride. Against Melbourne, they must lift their performance another notch, and do so for 90 minutes. Loss of concentration allowed the Victory to steal three points from their last clash at Aussie Stadium – that day Melbourne had just four attempts on goal for their two goals.

Form: Melbourne w L w W D
 Sydney d W W W d

Fact: Though they have yet to drop a point away, the Victory have lost two matches and drawn another at Telstra Dome.

5pm Sunday, 10 December
Central Coast Mariners vs Perth Glory
Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford

The Mariners should feel confident against the Glory who have struggled on their travels of late. Another match at Gosford, with a near full-strength side, make the Mariners clear favourites, though there is some concern over Tony Vidmar's calf. Without Damian Mori, the Mariners are beginning to look worryingly goal shy again. Nik Mrdja is starting to threaten, but lacked support last weekend.

Perth Glory are still in the playoff race, but a loss here may see

them drop six points off fourth place.

A significant number of travelling supporters, along with the likely return of Stan Lazaridis will ensure the Glory put it all on the line against the Mariners. They simply must, or this weekend and their following match against Sydney may effectively end their season.

Form: Central Coast D W w I d
 Perth I W W I I

Fact: Every Mariners victory this season has been earned with a second-half winner.

6.30pm Sunday, 10 December
Adelaide United vs New Zealand Knights
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

After three consecutive losses, Adelaide's fans can expect a win here. It helps that it's the Knights, who haven't picked up a point away all season. And if Romario is going to score in a game, it's most likely to be this one. Daniel Beltrame will fill in for Robert Bajic after his send-off last week, and has a chance to reclaim the number one jersey permanently with an assured display against the Knights. Jason Spagnuolo returns to the squad following suspension.

Though the Knights have been out of playoff contention for

some time, the club can still have a significant impact on the playoff race. They hindered the Jets last week, and with a question mark over the abilities of Adelaide with Romario in the side, this could be their day. The Knights have performed best against Adelaide this season, and coming off three defeats, Adelaide may just be vulnerable.

Form: Adelaide L I I w W

New Zealand D I L I W

Fact: Only New Zealand have conceded more goals than Adelaide this season.

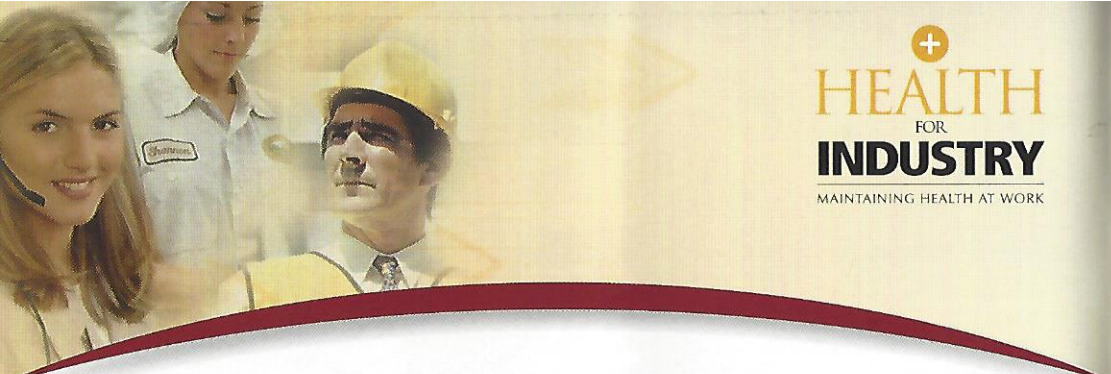
FORM GUIDE

The past five home and away games have been recorded for each side. UPPERCASE is home and lowercase is away. For example a team with a record of "I D W d w" means they most recently lost away, and previously drew at home, won at home, drew away and won away.

SNAPPED! 2 DECEMBER 2006

What a goal! And doesn't it show on Matt McKay's face! After a drawn out affair that looked like it was headed for a scoreless draw, McKay's moment of sheer brilliance delivered the Roar's first win since round eight. It also marked Frank Farina's first win as Roar Manager since taking the reins in round 13. McKay smacked the ball outside the box to beat impressive goalkeeper Tommi Tomich.





Our services at a glance

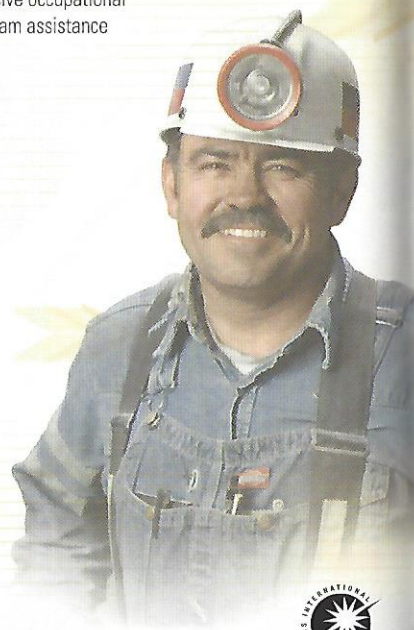
- > Injury treatment services
- > Pre employment assessments
- > Managing drug and alcohol issues programs
- > Health surveillance—both statutory and non statutory
- > Exit medical assessments
- > Fitness for duty assessments
- > Screening services such as hearing, lung function and vision testing
- > Medico legal assessments
- > Training and Education Services
- > Workplace health promotion programs
- > Vaccination services
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FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



"What an amazing stadium and the pitch is wonderful. In Brazil, we don't have grounds like this... the grounds usually have potholes. And your women are great too!"

Brazil's SporTV presenter talks about Bluetongue Stadium and other Hyundai A-League attractions before Central Coast vs Adelaide

"I've been coaching Danny since he was 13. Whenever we talked about one-on-ones, we always used Romario as a good example of strikers in those situations. Tonight, he got his chance in a one-on-one with the great man and Danny stopped him from scoring. What a feeling it was to see that."

Mariners' keeper coach John Crawley on Vukovic's save

PURPLE!

NOTICE ANYTHING COLOURFUL LAST ROUND?!

Round 15 saw Hyundai A-League players and coaches publicly supporting an award-winning sports-based initiative aimed at preventing violence against women. Players simply wore purple armbands during games, but the statement was significant. The colour purple is internationally recognised as being the colour for women's rights.

FFA Head of Operations Matt Carroll said clubs and players were keen to be actively involved in wearing the armbands.

"FFA and the Hyundai A-League clubs and players are proud to support this worthwhile campaign and use the increased interest in our sport of football to educate the community at-large about such an important issue as preventing violence against

women", he said.

"Our players and officials understand that they are role models in the community and that their actions can have a positive effect on the behaviours of many young men," he continued.

Purple Armbands Games Coordinator, Kath Haines, said, "By wearing the armbands, the Hyundai A-League teams will make expressions of support to victims/survivors and on-field statements of respect for women and opposition to abuse."

By wearing the armbands, players stated their respect for women, commitment to a stance against sexual violence and sympathy to women's experience of sexual assault. Check out www.purplearmband.org for more information.

PRIZE!
Send six tokens from page 35 to: The Full90 Fan Comp, 52 Victoria St, McMahon's Pt, NSW 2060 for your chance to win a numbered and named playing top from your favourite team. You'll even be presented it by officials from the team!

THE FULL90 TIPSTERS ROUND SIXTEEN GAMES

Follow our tips at your own peril!	Queensland vs Newcastle	Melbourne vs Sydney	Central Coast vs Perth	Adelaide vs New Zealand	
 Phill Massaad Nerds FC	Queensland Roar	Sydney FC	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	29
 Richie Young The Full90	Draw	Draw	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	26
 Mark van Aken Green and Gold Army	Newcastle Jets	Sydney FC	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	28
 Emma Kean The Full90	Draw	Melbourne Victory	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	29
 Andy Jackson FourFourTwo	Newcastle Jets	Draw	Central Coast Mariners	Adelaide United	27

BREAKDOWN!

TOP GOAL SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GOALS
Daniel Allsopp	Melbourne Victory	9
Archie Thompson	Melbourne Victory	7
Kevin Muscat	Melbourne Victory	7
Damian Mori	Queensland Roar	6
Jamie Harnwell	Perth Glory	5
Milton Rodriguez	Newcastle Jets	5
Stuart Young	Perth Glory	5
Fernando	Adelaide United	4
Carl Veart	Adelaide United	4
David Zdrilic	Sydney FC	4
Sasho Petrovski	Sydney FC	4
Reinaldo	Queensland Roar	3
Adam Kwasnik	Central Coast Mariners	3
Ante Milicic	Queensland Roar	3
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	3
Mark Bridge	Newcastle Jets	3
Nathan Burns	Adelaide United	3
Nick Carle	Newcastle Jets	3
Simon Lynch	Queensland Roar	3
Steve Corica	Sydney FC	3
Travis Dodd	Adelaide United	3

LADDER

LADDER	POS	TEAM	OVERALL						DIFF.	PTS.
			Pd	W	D	L	F	A		
	1	Melbourne Victory	15	12	1	2	32	11	21	37
	2	Sydney FC	15	6	6	3	25	16	9	24
	3	Adelaide United	15	7	1	7	24	22	2	22
	4	Central Coast Mariners	15	5	5	5	17	17	0	20
	5	Newcastle Jets	15	5	5	5	19	22	-3	20
	6	Queensland Roar	15	5	4	6	17	17	0	19
	7	Perth Glory	15	5	2	8	19	21	-2	17
	8	New Zealand Knights	15	2	2	11	6	33	-27	8



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SOCCER MUM

THE MARINERS HAVE BECOME ONE OF **GENEVIEVE THYER** AND HER FAMILY'S GREATEST SOURCES OF JOY. JUST DON'T MENTION PUTT PUTT! / **JACK SNAPE**

The Central Coast Mariners are at it again. Languishing close to the bottom of the table a matter of months ago, the side is now flying high, within striking distance of second spot. On the back of an amazing run of home matches, the side is peaking at the right time, and another grand final appearance is looking like a distinct possibility.

Their form has been boosted by ever more loyal support. After the heroics of last season and the growing momentum behind this

campaign, the Central Coast community is uniting behind the Mariners – none more so than Genevieve Thyer, also known as 'Mariner Mum'.

Beginning with last year's Pre-Season Cup Final, Genevieve and her family have become Mariners tragics. This season they have attended every match, home and away (apart from New Zealand).

Genevieve's eight kids have always played football, but before the Mariners arrived the family were rugby league supporters. "When league went to Super League we didn't really follow it and we didn't really have much to follow after that because we didn't have anything that was specifically belonging to the Central Coast," Genevieve says.

"THE MARINERS WERE THE FIRST THING THAT CAME TO THE CENTRAL COAST AND REALLY UNITED US AND WAS REALLY OURS."

Quite a Team

Alongside Genevieve, the Mariners fans among her family include daughter Sophia, aged nine, sons Angus, 11, and JD, 14, and husband Lindsay. It's clear who's in control though, as Genevieve says: "The girls take the boys. My husband knew nothing about football. But even he has an opinion now."

"The Mariners were the first thing that came to the Coast and really united us and was ours."

The Mariners staff and players have earned the club an outstanding reputation within the community. Players are active in the community, visiting schools and making public appearances. They are also eager to give thanks to fans like Genevieve, often spending time with them during away matches. Andre Gumprecht famously sat with the travelling Mariners fans for the 3-3 draw in Melbourne.

Just like last year, when Mariners support grew to extreme levels as the side barrelled towards the grand final,

Mariners matches are becoming a hot ticket in town. "We take an eight-seater van and maybe now we're thinking we have to take another van!" Genevieve says. "I believe we can make it to the finals and I still believe that. You see this brilliant play and you think 'we can get there', despite everybody else. With all our home games we're just going to lift and that'll be it. Watch out Sydney, we'll have second spot thanks!"

The furthest the Mariners have to travel before the finals is Newcastle, a situation that suggests second place is easily within their grasp. Yet the lack of away matches means the season's end for one of the new Thyer family traditions, the away putt-putt competition.

"Every away game we find a putt-putt golf course and have a competition with the family," Genevieve recounts. "Next year we're going to have a trophy. A hole-in-one is worth a dollar, and if you win, you get two dollars. I thought my money would be safe with the kids, though Sophia's managed to get a few dollars out of me."

For even the league's hardest

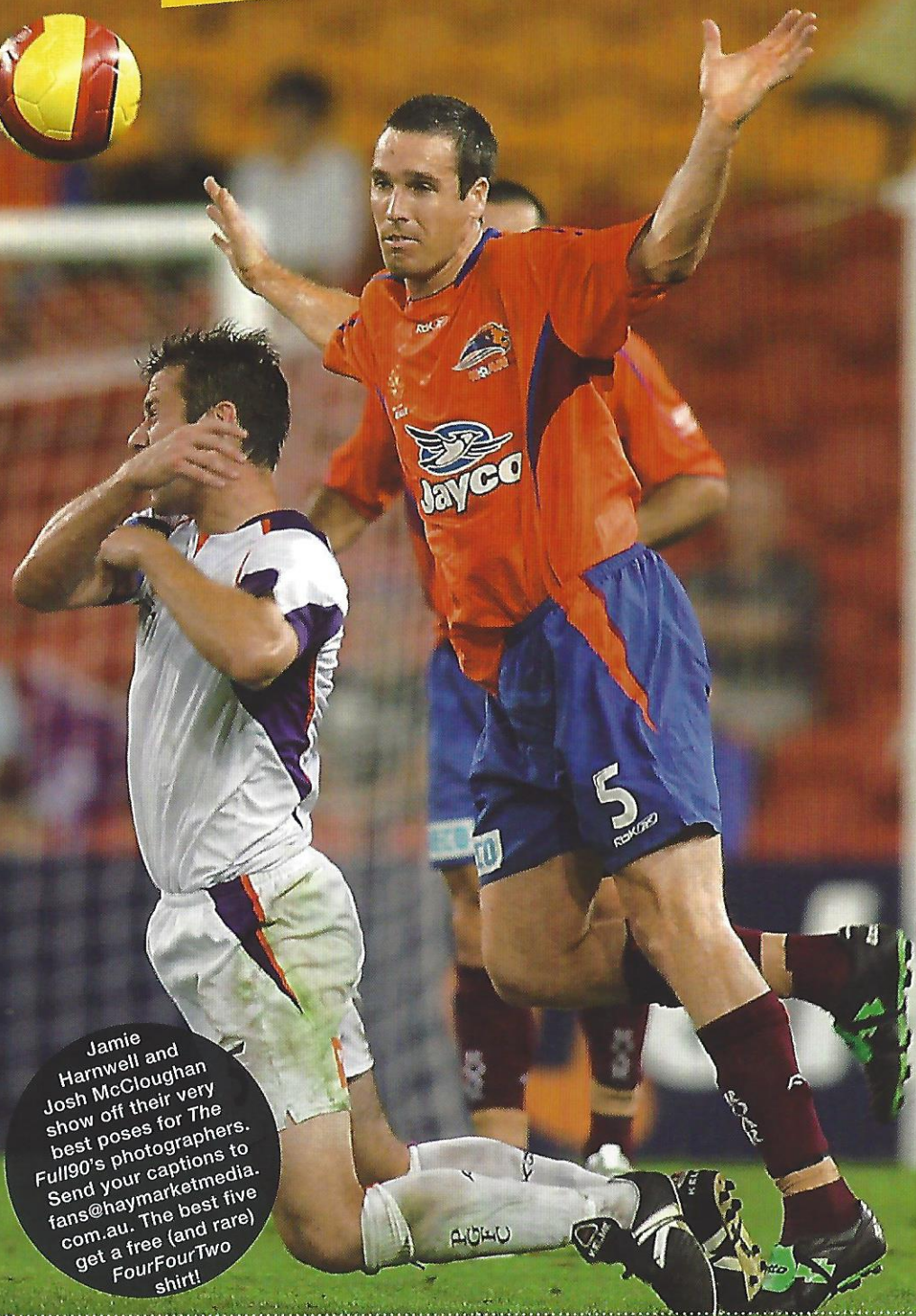
supporters, the cost of away travel can deter regular away trips. Genevieve, however, is philosophical about the sacrifices her family have made. "Football's been something we do as a family. For the joy that we get out of following them, there's no sacrifice," Genevieve states. "With a stressful job etcetera, I just think 'here comes the weekend, I can't wait'. It's the price you pay to support a team. And if that promotes football then so be it."

Playing Favourites

Genevieve is a big fan of Andre Gumprecht. Her daughter Sophia and son Angus are still missing Michael Beauchamp and Dean Heffernan, though Angus is taking a liking to Jamie McMaster. Her husband, meanwhile, doesn't quite have a favourite. "I think he's just jealous I might like a few people!" Genevieve says. "He just has a lot of fun and sits there and thinks 'oh my god look at my wife!'"



caption!



Jamie Harnwell and Josh McCloughan show off their very best poses for The Full90's photographers. Send your captions to fans@haymarketmedia.com.au. The best five get a free (and rare) FourFourTwo shirt!

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TIPS AND TRICKS GOALKEEPING PART 2

Because they are the only player on the field who can use their hands, goalkeepers are unique in the game of football.

When the ball does get past the defence, the 'keeper is left with the task of saving their team. They can use their hands anywhere within the penalty area, but they can also use their legs and body to block shots at goal.

When the ball comes in high, the goalkeeper is expected to catch it, or to punch the ball to safety. When the ball is fired in low, the 'keeper should get their body behind it and smother it, or, if it is going wide, dive across and push the ball away to safety.

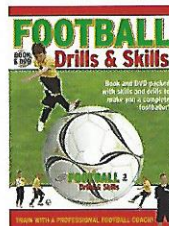
And if that isn't enough, once they

have control of the ball, safely in their arms, you then expect the 'keeper to distribute the ball correctly and get your team's possession moving. The 'keeper can do this by either throwing or kicking the ball.

DIVING

Sometimes you don't have enough time for positioning and you must fling your body into action.

- Move across from a basic stance
- Launch yourself off one foot and get your hands behind the ball.
- Use your body and arms to prevent the ball from popping out as you land.



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FRANK FRANK

FRANK FARINA IS BACK. THE MAN WHO ONCE LED THE QANTAS SOCCEROOS, AS WELL AS THE BRISBANE STRIKERS IS NOW AIMING TO TAKE THE ROAR TO THE TOP / **RICHIE YOUNG**

Come of Queensland's "favourite sons" has emerged to take the reins of one of the Hyundai A-League's biggest teams. Privately, Frank Farina has already plotted some grand plans for the team... but in truly typical style was careful not to reveal all... *The Full90* caught up with Farina following the Roar's loss to Sydney FC in round 14.

You're now two games in... how are you feeling?

Yeah... good. It hasn't been that long. Obviously we've had a few problems and issues but things are going well at the moment and we've just got to try and turn it around on the park.

It must be difficult for you coming into an established side mid-season...

Oh it is. It's always difficult coming in

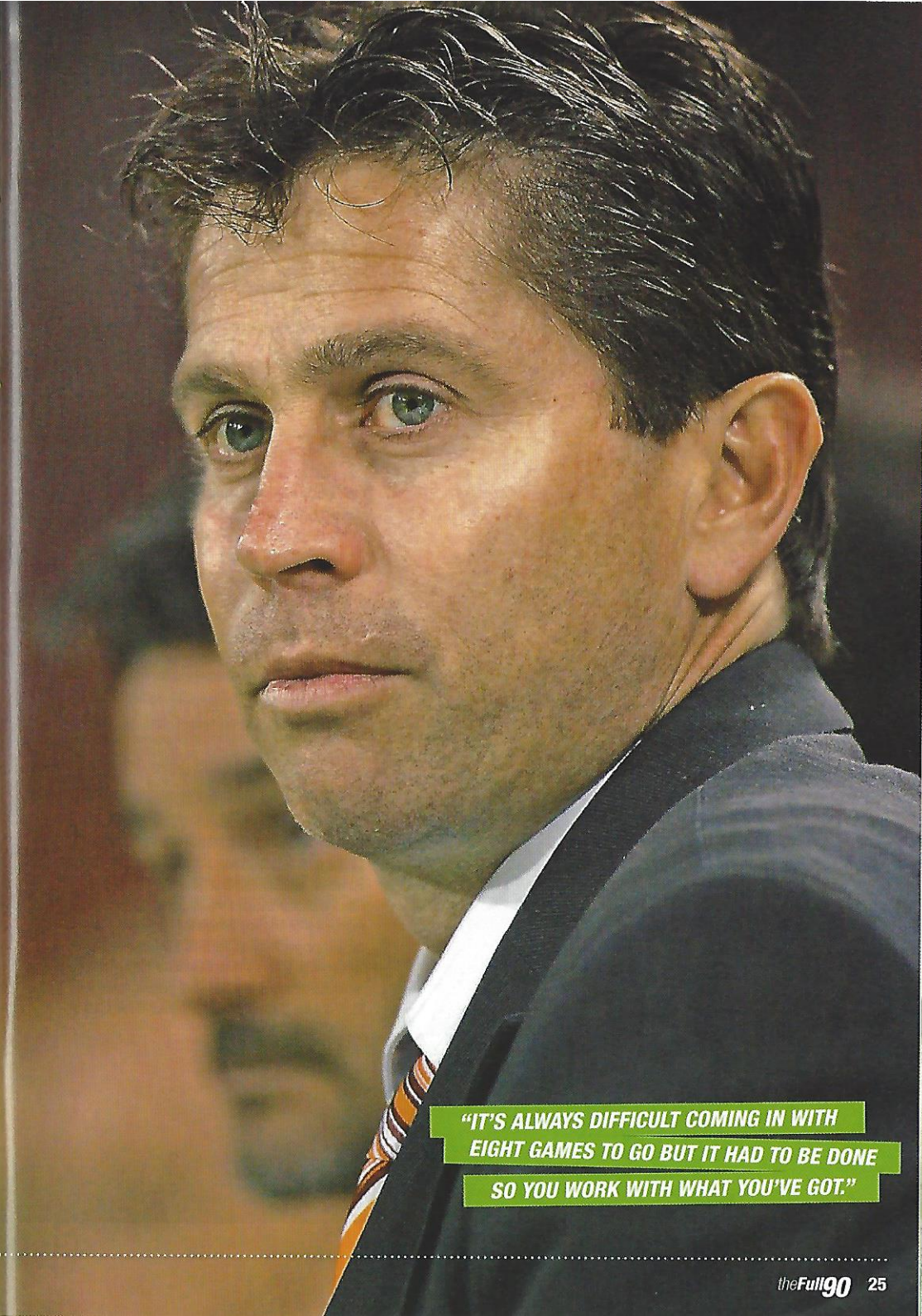
with only eight games to go but you know, it had to be done so you work with what you've got. Hopefully in the next few weeks I'll be able to put my own stamp on the squad and the team. I'll just continue with what we've got and hopefully this weekend get a result.

Have you received a lot of well wishes?

Yeah. It's a good feeling up here and a lot of people have wished me luck and said that they hope that things go well. It's good, I spent three good years up here with the Strikers and hopefully we can replicate that with the Roar.

Have you spoken with Graham Arnold about it?

I've spoken to Graham. He's in camp with the Olympic side at the moment but yeah, we talk about players and young



"IT'S ALWAYS DIFFICULT COMING IN WITH EIGHT GAMES TO GO BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE SO YOU WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT."

players coming through... we had a pretty good chat! We still talk about football issues and stuff like that. We talk about all the things going on so nothing's changed too much.

You are regarded as having the best CV of any coach in the league. Does that alone give you more pressure?

No not really. I mean we've all got difficult jobs I think, just to be a coach in the Hyundai A-League. As I said, I've come into a situation where you can't change too much because you've already got the squad there. You've got to try and do your best. You can have the supposedly best CV going but if you don't do well with the clubs it doesn't count for anything to be honest.

You'd worked with a number of the players before, but apart

"THE NEXT THREE GAMES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR US. THEY'RE CRUCIAL. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DROP POINTS NOW, IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."

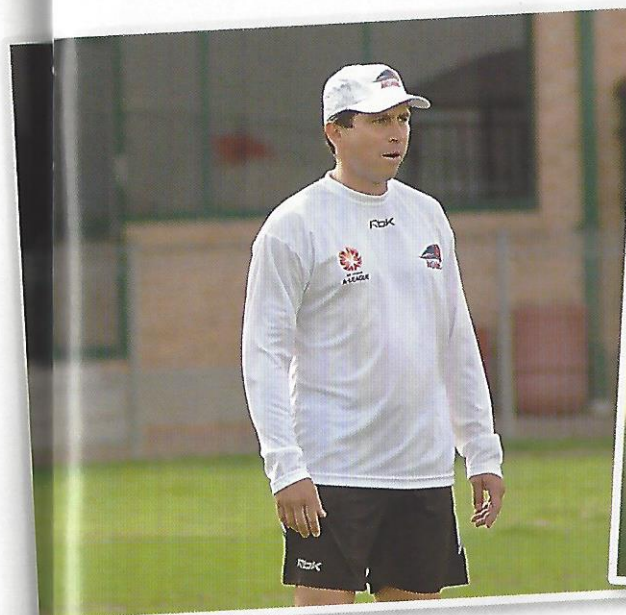
from watching the others on TV, there must have been some you knew little about...

Oh yeah for sure. I've worked with a number of them, whether in Olympic sides or with club teams as well but the foreign players I didn't know too much about... and a few of the younger ones. But it just takes time to know them as

Crossing paths

Frank Farina actually crossed paths with Guus Hiddink, his successor to the Qantas Socceroos top job back in 2001. At the time, Hiddink was coaching South Korea, and the pair were preparing their sides for the

2001 Confederations Cup. The teams were pitted against one another in Group A. In that match, held at Suwon WorldCup Stadium, South Korea won 1-0 thanks to a goal to Hwang Sun Hong.



individuals and players and that's not something I've got a lot of at the moment – time.

How confident are you of a top four finish?

The next three games are vitally important for us. They're crucial. We can't afford to drop points now, it's as simple as that.

How have the players responded to your sessions?

I couldn't answer that myself to be honest. They've responded well... they've been working really hard and everyone's putting in. Basically it was a clean slate for all the players with a new coach coming in so it's been very good.

You're playing the Jets in round 16 – who are on a massive comeback. How do you rate them? What are their main differences under Gary Van Egmond?

It's hard for me to comment because I don't know what went on in the past and

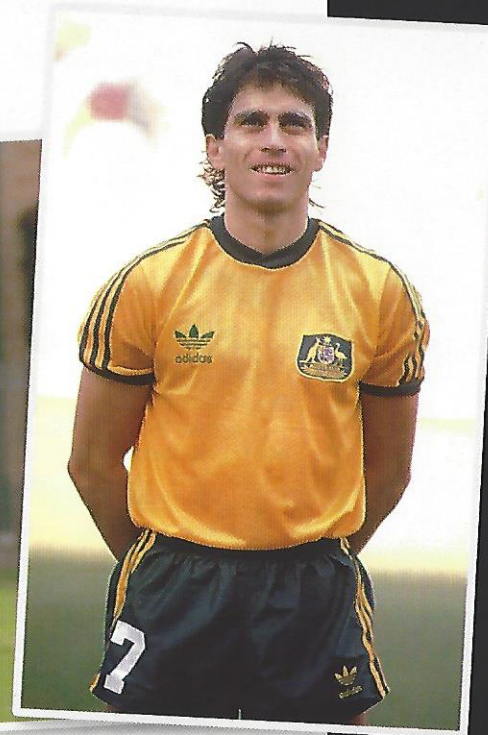
what's going on now but they certainly, I believe, had a very, very strong squad on paper. That's turning out to be truthful when you see the results now.

Are there any particular players, or senior players that you are looking to, to help lift the side?

It's basically with everyone. It's not so much individuals, it's up to everyone... all the players to give 100 per cent. When you get that, nine times out of 10 you've got a good team. There's no one individual who you're looking to, to lift everyone. It's a collective thing, rather than an individual thing.

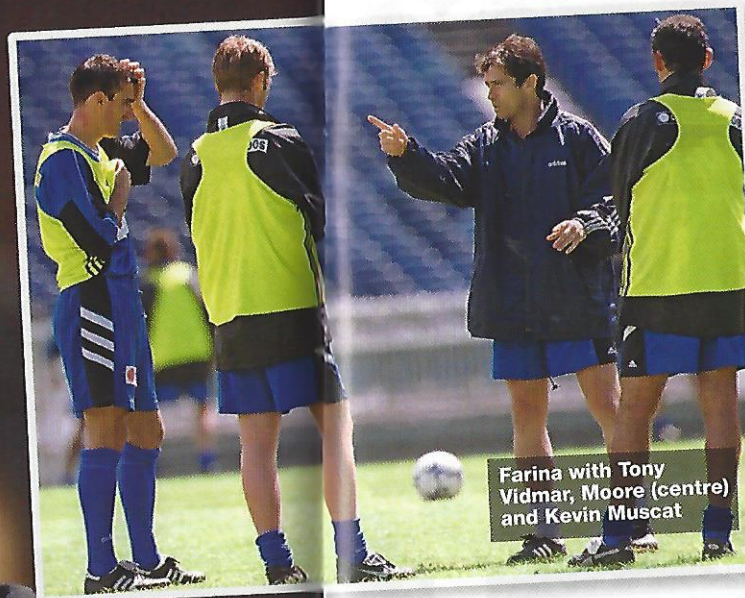
The goalkeeping rotation under Miron drew a lot of attention. Have you made a call within the team; chosen one of them as the number one and told them that?

No, definitely not. Liam is starting at the moment and I thought he had a great game, [against Sydney FC].



G-Man

Farina has recently signed up youngster Chris Grossman to the team. Nineteen year-old Grossman is an Australia U-20 representative and will cover for Marcus Wedau who sustained a grade one muscle tear at training. Grossman will wear #27 and will be with the side until at least round 18.



Farina with Tony Vidmar, Moore (centre) and Kevin Muscat

Do you think if he was to come back, would that affect his continued role with the Qantas Socceroos?

No I don't think so. I think that any player playing in the Hyundai A-League, if they're good enough and performing well enough, have a chance. And that's the way it should be.

Has Brisbane itself changed much since the last time you lived there?

It hasn't changed that much! It's been eight years since I last lived here but I've been here quite regularly in that period. It's a great place to live, the weather is fantastic. It's nice and I'm really enjoying it here.

You've got a good crop of young players there in Dario Vidosic, Matt McKay and Spase Dilevski. What sort of role do you think they'll play in your side going forward?

Depends if they're performing well. Players will get their opportunities but if things aren't going the way I'd like then we'll make changes. But we have

a young and healthy group here and it's good. It's refreshing around training... they're enthusiastic but at the end of the day they've got to perform on the park when given the opportunity. It's entirely up to them.

How much have thought have you given next season? If these aren't "your" players are you looking ahead to change a few things around?

Definitely. I think about eight players are coming off contract and the size of the squad is changing next year, so there will be changes. There will be players resigned, but we've had a bit of an eye on it already. We'll keep doing that because you can't wait until the end of the season until you start preparing for the next.

Can you give us a tip? Will you be looking overseas or internally?

It could be overseas, it could be

"ABOUT EIGHT PLAYERS ARE COMING OFF CONTRACT NEXT YEAR SO THERE WILL BE CHANGES... WE'VE HAD A BIT OF AN EYE ON IT ALREADY."

Did you know

That Frank grew up in Cairns, North Queensland? Or that he spent some of his childhood in Papua New Guinea? Or that in his time as Qantas Socceroos coach, Farina helped guide the team to memorable victories over Brazil, France and England?

Plus three

Hyundai A-League clubs will be permitted to have 23 players in their squads starting in the 2007/08 season. Currently, squads are limited to 20 players.

Unfortunately he conceded three goals but I thought he played well. As long as he's playing well and doing well he'll stay in. If I decide to change then Tom will get his chance. That's the way I work with the team.

There are a lot of wraps on Central Coast Mariner Danny Vukovic at the moment, but some people are also saying Liam Reddy is another possible number one for Australia with his potential. Do you agree with that?

Well he's definitely got the potential. It's just a matter of continuing on with his form and working hard and training. The potential is there. It depends on how bad Liam wants it and how hard he's prepared to work to get it.

How much more difficult is being on the road going to

make things?

Everyone's in the same boat. You've got to play a certain amount of games away from home and in the last seven we've got four away and three at home. That's just the reality of it and we've just got to go through it. We've got four on the trot away and the last one at home is against Sydney. You just have to keep continuing on.

It was reported recently that Craig Moore is a possibility of joining the Roar as soon as next season. At this point, how would you rate that in terms of likelihood?

I'd say about 40/60. Forty in that he'd most probably come and sixty in that he wouldn't. Then you've got to remember that there are a lot of issues you then have to go through. I think Craig himself is waiting to see what he's going to do in terms of his future overseas.





Keep the support alive.

Only a little bit over? You bloody idiot. TAC 

victory

MAKE NO MISTAKE: WE WANT THIS ONE

ERNIE MERRICK ZEROES IN ON
WINNING THE PREMIERSHIP

Welcome to Telstra Dome for what promises to be one of the matches of the season. Last time we faced Sydney here at the Dome, almost 40,000 fans broke the Australian home and away attendance record, and I'm sure a similar number will be back for tonight's game.

The players really appreciate your support, so thank you to each and every one of you here tonight.

This match has been eagerly anticipated for many weeks, as Sydney's form has been on the improve. They will be striving to secure second place on the table in front of Adelaide in order to secure a semi-final berth which holds the prospect of a home grand final for the winner. Of course, we want that just as desperately, so this match shapes as a tantalizing preview of what might come around during the finals.

As for us, we've been very

pleased with our form over recent weeks, even when forced to draw upon all the resources within our squad. We suffered our first real glut of injuries after the recent match against Queensland but the squad held together quite well. The last few weeks illustrate that we can be a force against any opposition regardless of which personnel take to the park.

It was also encouraging to see Adelaide sell out Hindmarsh Stadium for our match last week. It goes to prove that the Hyundai A-League is alive and well right around the country. You only need to look around you tonight to realise that the game is stronger than it has ever been before.

Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to putting on a show for you tonight.

Ernie Merrick



ERNIE MERRICK
MANAGER

**"THIS MATCH
SHAPES AS A
TANTALIZING
PREVIEW OF
WHAT MIGHT
COME AROUND
DURING THE
FINALS."**

1



Michael Theoklitos

Pos GK **App** 13 **CS** 6
DOB 11 February 1981

A tall shot-stopper, Theoklitos has been a key in Melbourne's brilliant season start.

2



Kevin Muscat

Pos DF **App** 12 **Goals** 7
DOB 7 August 1973

A veteran of the game, but as hungry as ever. Muscat is like a brick wall for whichever attackers he faces.

3



Daniel Piorkowski

Pos DF **App** 13 **Goals** 0
DOB 12 January 1984

Highly rated right back who will be looking for an injury-free season to re-establish his Socceroos credentials.

4



Mark Byrnes

Pos DF **App** 4 **Goals** 0
DOB 8 February 1982

Captain of the Young Socceroos who narrowly lost to Brazil in 1999, Byrnes has experience beyond his years.

6



Steve Pantelidis

Pos DF **App** 14 **Goals** 0
DOB 17 August 1983

One of the characters of the team, 'Panta' provides the steel in the midfield, allowing the forwards to do their thing.



Michael Ferrante

Pos MF **App** 2 **Goals** 0
DOB 28 April 1981

Former captain of the West Ham Youth team, Michael's skill and pedigree make him one of Victory's star players.



Fred

Pos FW **App** 12 **Goals** 3
DOB 18 August 1979

One of the highly touted 'Trio from Rio', Fred played 10 seasons in Brazil. Expect some samba flair.



Daniel Allsopp

Pos FW **App** 15 **Goals** 9
DOB 10 August 1978

Daniel has a wealth of overseas experience and was near ever-present up front for Victory last season.



Archie Thompson

Pos FW **App** 14 **Goals** 7
DOB 23 October 1978

The A-League's flashiest scorer, Archie is a favourite — and not just amongst Victory fans!



Vince Lia

Pos MF **App** 3 **Goals** 0
DOB 18 March 1985

A product of South Melbourne, Vince is a pacy midfielder who likes to get up and support the strikers.

7

12



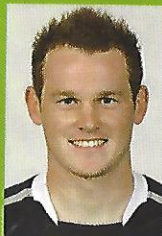
Rodrigo Vargas

Pos DF **App** 14 **Goals** 0
DOB 20 October 1978

Chilean-born, technically gifted former Melbourne Knight, Vargas signed for the Victory in May.

8

13



Kristian Sarkies

Pos MF **App** 11 **Goals** 0
DOB 25 October 1986

Sarkies is one of the league's hottest prospects and will be one of the keys to Melbourne's success.

9

14



Adrian Caceres

Pos MF **App** 14 **Goals** 2
DOB 10 January 1982

The Argentinian-born midfielder will be looking to build on last year's solid campaign with Perth Glory.

10

15



Adrian Leijer

Pos DF **App** 14 **Goals** 0
DOB 25 March 1986

This exciting youngster is so highly rated he trained with the Socceroos in Germany pre-World Cup.

11

16

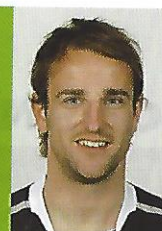


Simon Storey

Pos DF **App** 14 **Goals** 0
DOB 5 June 1982

Former U-21 Player of the Year in the VPL can play at the back and in midfield. Holds a degree in physiotherapy.

17

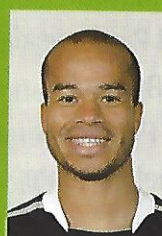


Grant Brebner

Pos MF **App** 14 **Goals** 1
DOB 6 December 1977

Signed from SPL side Dundee United to add strength and substance to the midfield. Ex-Man United youth player.

18



Alessandro

Pos DF **App** 12 **Goals** 0
DOB 10 August 1983

Signed from Brazilian side Internacional RS, Alessandro likes to attack down the wings as much as possible.

19



Claudinho

Pos FW **App** 5 **Goals** 1
DOB 7 May 1982

The Brazilian striker has played over 100 games in his homeland. Has a powerful left foot and will be hard to handle.

20



Eugene Galekovic

Pos GK **App** 2 **CS** 1
DOB 12 June 1981

One of the country's most talented keepers, Eugene will be patient this season as back-up to Theoklitos.



teams

MELBOURNE VICTORY

Homeground
Telstra Dome,
Melbourne

Coach
Ernie Merrick



Captain
Kevin Muscat



**TEAM
SCORE**

Half-time

Full-time

No.	Name	Position	✓	Goals
1.	Michael Theoklitos	Goalkeeper		
2.	Kevin Muscat	Defender		
3.	Daniel Piorkowski	Defender		
4.	Mark Byrnes	Defender		
6.	Steve Pantelidis	Defender		
7.	Michael Ferrante	Midfielder		
8.	Fred	Striker		
9.	Daniel Allsopp	Striker		
10.	Archie Thomson	Striker		
11.	Vince Lia	Midfielder		
12.	Rodrigo Vargas	Defender		
13.	Kristian Sarkies	Midfielder		
14.	Adrian Caceres	Striker		
15.	Adrian Leijer	Defender		
16.	Simon Storey	Defender		
17.	Grant Brebner	Midfielder		
18.	Alessandro	Defender		
19.	Claudio	Striker		
20.	Eugene Galekovic	Goalkeeper		
21.	James Robinson	Striker		

teams

SYDNEY FC

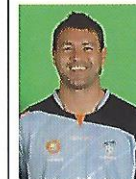


Homeground
Aussie
Stadium,
Sydney

Coach
Terry Butcher



Captain
Mark Rudan



**TEAM
SCORE**

Half-time

Full-time

No.	Name	Position	✓	Goals
1.	Clint Bolton	Goalkeeper		
2.	Iain Fyfe	Defender		
3.	Alvin Ceccoli	Defender		
4.	Mark Rudan	Defender		
6.	Ufuk Talay	Midfielder		
7.	Robbie Middleby	Midfielder		
8.	Ruben Zadkovich	Midfielder		
9.	David Zdrilic	Striker		
10.	Steve Corica	Midfielder		
11.	Sasho Petrovski	Striker		
12.	David Carney	Midfielder		
13.	Jeremy Brockie	Striker		
14.	Alex Brosque	Midfielder		
15.	Terry McFlynn	Midfielder		
16.	Mark Milligan	Defender		
17.	Jacob Timpano	Defender		
20.	Justin Pasfield	Goalkeeper		
21.	Nikolai Topor-Stanley	Defender		

ROUND 16 TOKEN

**WIN A FANTASTIC
FOOTBALL PRIZE!**

COLLECT SIX TOKENS THIS SEASON AND
BE IN THE RUNNING. WE WANT TO FIND
THE BIGGEST HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FAN.
SEE PAGE 15 FOR DETAILS!



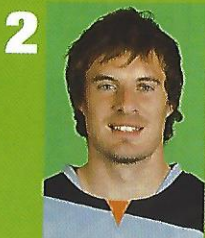
MELBOURNE VICTORY
VS SYDNEY FC



Clint Bolton

Pos GK **App** 15 **CS** 5
DOB 22 August 1975

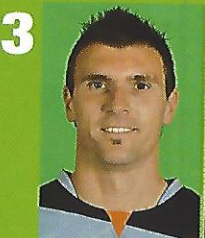
A Socceroo, Clint is one of the best 'keepers in the A-League and has also competed in the NSL.



Iain Fyfe

Pos DF **App** 15 **Goals** 2
DOB 3 April 1982

Called into the Socceroo squad earlier this year, Fyfe is a key defender who has not yet seen his career peak.



Alvin Ceccoli

Pos DF **App** 14 **Goals** 1
DOB 5 August 1974

One of the league's most experienced defenders, Ceccoli was a legend of the NSL and has an eye for goal.



Mark Rudan

Pos DF **App** 13 **Goals** 2
DOB 27 August 1975

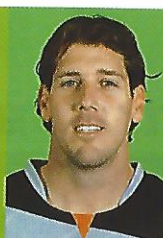
Rudan is a tall and imposing defender who is strong in the air and a solid man marker. A real leader for Sydney FC.



Ufuk Talay

Pos MF **App** 14 **Goals** 2
DOB 26 March 1976

Ufuk won an NSL title before the age of 18 with plenty of experience playing in the tough leagues of Turkey.



Robert Middleby

Pos MF **App** 8 **Goals** 1
DOB 9 August 1975

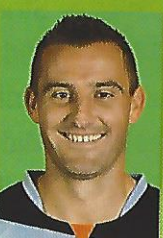
Fast, direct-running midfielder who is a versatile player for Terry Butcher. Will be looking for a big season.



Ruben Zadkovich

Pos MF **App** 11 **Goals** 1
DOB 23 May 1986

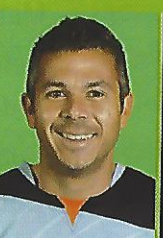
Joined the team mid-season and impressed enough to win a long-term contract. Added spark to the midfield.



David Zdrilic

Pos FW **App** 15 **Goals** 4
DOB 13 April 1974

Zdrilic is a hard-working forward who has plenty of international experience. Big and strong, he plays hard.



Steve Corica

Pos MF **App** 10 **Goals** 3
DOB 24 March 1973

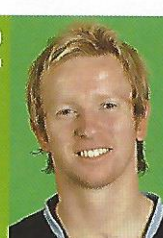
Corica spent years in England and Japan to fine tune his game. A versatile and dangerous midfielder.



Sasho Petrovski

Pos FW **App** 14 **Goals** 4
DOB 5 March 1975

One of Sydney's most reliable scorers, he should do even better now with more options from new teammates.



David Carney

Pos MF **App** 6 **Goals** 1
DOB 30 November 1983

An ex-Everton junior, Carney was a true revelation last season. A tricky player, whom opponents will mark closely.



Jeremy Brockie

Pos FW **App** 7 **Goals** 0
DOB 7 October 1987

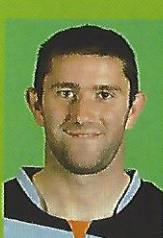
The dreadlocked star was a shining light for the NZ Knights but must now aim for a Sydney FC starting spot.



Alex Brosque

Pos FW **App** 12 **Goals** 0
DOB 12 Oct 1983

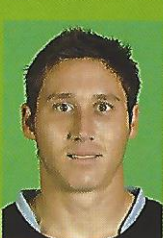
The Roar will miss Brosque. His scoring and play was one of the flashiest, making him a crowd favourite.



Terry McFlynn

Pos MF **App** 10 **Goals** 0
DOB 27 March 1981

One of Sydney's most important players, appearing in 21 games last season. Combative ball winner.



Mark Milligan

Pos DF **App** 10 **Goals** 0
DOB 4 August 1985

Milligan's experience in the World Cup squad will make him a better player in season two. A smart defender.



Jacob Timpano

Pos DF **App** – **Goals** –
DOB 3 January 1986

Tall, composed defender was a sensation, staying in the side all season after being given a start in Round 5.



Justin Pasfield

Pos GK **App** – **CS** –
DOB 30 May 1985

Terry Butcher is a known fan of his #2 'keeper. If he gets a chance, Pasfield will make the most of it.



Nikolai Topor-Stanley

Pos DF **App** 11 **Goals** 0
DOB 11 March 1985

Nikolai has represented Australia at the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championships.

PASSIONATE MELBOURNIAN,
USELESS COOK, SHAMELESS
ROMANTIC AND POSSIBLY THE
HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE'S TOP
DEFENDER – IT'S VICTORY MAN

RODRIGO VARGAS / JACK SNAPE

Rocking Rodrigo

BIG RED RODRIGO

Favourite hobby: "Spending time with my two year-old nephew".

Last song you heard: "I think it was *The Wiggles*. I was just at my parents and my nephew was watching *The Wiggles*. I think it was the Big Red Car song. You know, 'choo choo chugga chugga, big red car.'"

Last movie you saw: "*The Departed*. It was good, though I definitely wasn't expecting the ending to happen."

Last TV show you watched: *Total Football*.

Your parents come from Chile but you've always been a Melbourne boy haven't you?

Yeah I'm a Melbourne boy, for me it's the greatest city in the world. I've travelled a fair bit with football but I always call Melbourne home, and at the moment things couldn't be better. It's a great city to live in.

You're playing a covering centre back position, but you've also got a responsibility to organise the defence don't you?

I'm probably the oldest head in the back line by a few years. I look at it like a leadership role. Adrian [Leijer] and Daniel [Piorkowski] have come on in leaps and bounds. I've been around for a few years so I try to help them out as much as possible. I like to think of



Red Hot Roddy

Favourite actor: Pacino.

Favourite band: "One is the Chilli Peppers. I've been told I look like the singer, especially in high school. I'd be at Coles and the lady at the counter would go 'has anyone ever told you...?' and I'd be like, 'yeah'."

Dream date: "My wife." (Ladies note: he doesn't have a girlfriend, let alone a wife.)

For and Against

Strengths as a player: "I pride myself on my consistency. Being consistent, reliable and reading the game well."

Looking to improve: "There are always areas in your game you want to work on. You've put me on the spot now. I don't want to give my secrets away! I've always wanted to work on my ability to get more involved in the attacking sense. – going for those marauding runs!"

wait for my chance. I was willing to do that. On the way though, there were a few injuries, you know a few players missed out. I got my chance during pre-season and Ernie was pretty happy with me. So I got my chance and sort of kept my spot. As a player, I had expectations that I wanted to play as many games as possible but there weren't any guarantees that I was going to be in the starting 11.

Ernie's told you he's been happy with you then?

Ernie's spoken to me and he's pretty happy with the way not just myself, but the whole team's going. The boys in the back have been tremendous this year. They don't get that much attention as the goal scorers or midfielders. Ado [Leijer] and Pira [Piorkowski] have been fantastic this year, and Simon Storey as well. They don't get the plaudits.

Last time you played Sydney you snatched the three points but it wasn't your best performance...

Yeah. Good teams are known to do

myself as someone who is pretty reliable, someone that Adrian and Daniel can say, "we know Roddy's backing us up." They can count on me.

Adrian Leijer has developed a reputation as a dirty player this year in the eyes of some opposition fans. Do you think this is fair?

I was pretty surprised that he got that tag. I've known Adrian for a while and he's always been very strong, very tough and very competitive, but he's never been one to go overboard or to be overly aggressive and nasty, to be a rash tackler. He's always been clean and hard at the ball. It was kind of surprising because he's not the type of guy to go out to set his sights on nailing a striker, he's not that type of player.

You've been an almost ever-present this season. Is that what you expected?

The understanding was I was coming down as backup or cover. Like any new player coming into a team, I knew I'd have to fight my way and if I had to,

that – not always playing good football but grinding out results. That first half playing up in Sydney was pretty disappointing. All the boys knew that we could do better. We did in the second half, we scored fairly early, then we snatched another one and held out. That's an ability that the team has this year... to grind out results. We're not always going to be able to play pretty football and win comfortably.

What do you remember about the showdown with Sydney at Telstra Dome?

That was to date probably my most memorable game to have experienced and been lucky enough to play in. To think a few years ago you'd be playing at Telstra Dome in front of 40,000 people, a lot of people would probably laugh at you. That game had everything, red cards, penalties, goals in quick succession. It was awesome to play in that game.

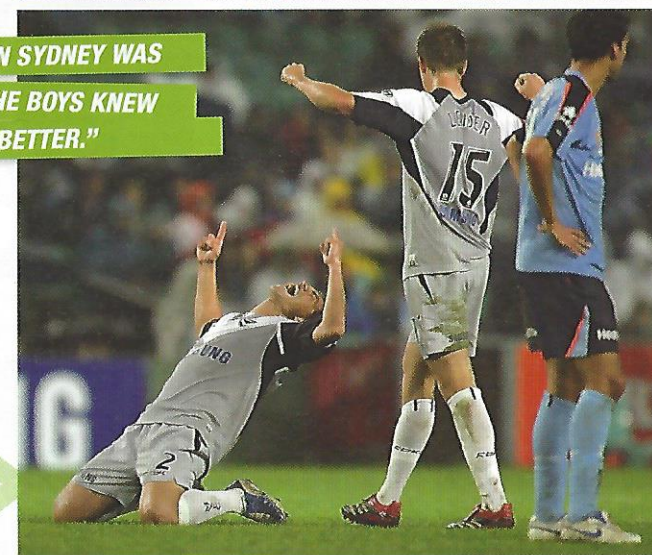
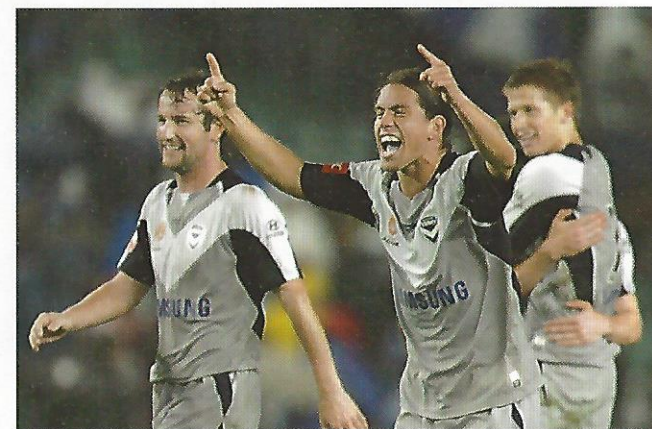
Why do you think Melbourne are so far ahead in terms of attendances this year?

I just think it's the Melbourne people

"THAT FIRST HALF PLAYING UP IN SYDNEY WAS PRETTY DISAPPOINTING. ALL THE BOYS KNEW THAT WE COULD DO BETTER."

in general. They love their sport. Last year the team wasn't doing half as well and they were still packing out Olympic Park. It's a testament to our members and supporters. They obviously love the game, they love the team and they come out in droves to watch us. The boys can feel the support, even travelling support, we regularly get supporters travelling to away games.

Is there something special



Cooking with Vargas

Last meal you cooked: "This is embarrassing because I haven't cooked for a while. We actually live in apartment blocks with six apartments. Me and my brother live in apartment one and mum and dad live in apartment six. I think the last meal I cooked was a year and a half ago when I first moved in. Ever since, my mum's been cooking."

about playing Sydney?

It's always great playing Sydney. In any code there's a big rivalry between Victoria and New South Wales. We look forward to playing Sydney because they're the reigning champions and we've got ambitions to become champions as well. They're a good side and we always know that whenever we play Sydney there's going to be fireworks and there's going to be an entertaining game.

Any predictions?

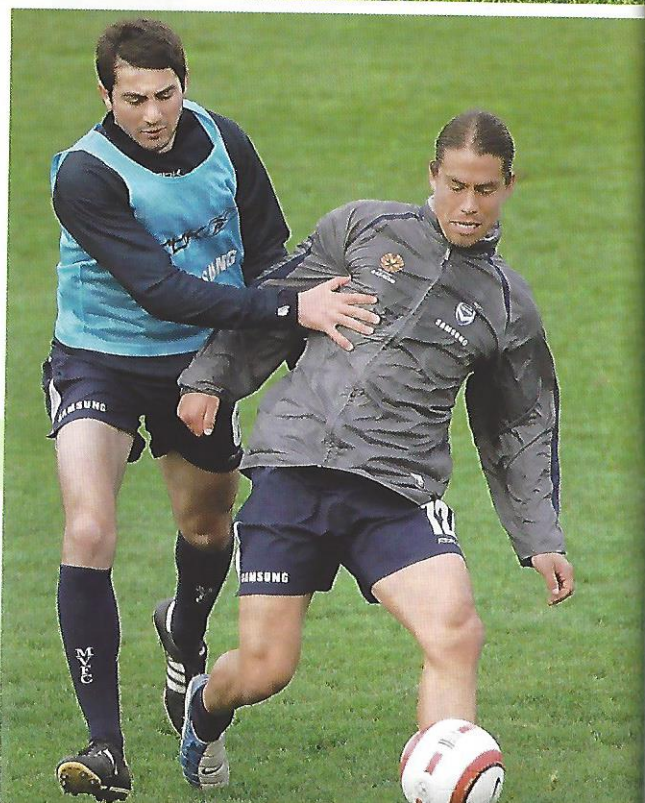
I think it'll be more of the same. I don't think there's any chance of a 0-0 stalemate.

You're the key defender for the best defence and team in the country. Do you have ambitions to play for Australia one day?

Yeah like any professional playing I'd love to represent my country one day. For me to be honest that's something I don't think about. I like to concentrate on Melbourne Victory and doing well for them, and hopefully bringing the club their first championship.

Have you ever been tempted to try your luck overseas?

Like anyone when I was younger I had a dream to play overseas. Now, if you can stay in Australia, and play in a pro league, the way things are going now in the Hyundai A-League... I'd just say to people, 'Australia's the best country in the world.' If you can play professionally here why would you want to leave? ■



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GUMP IN THE ROAD

GLOBETROTTING **GUMPRECHT** IS BACK IN THE MARINERS' SADDLE AFTER A NASTY INJURY
/ AIDAN ORMOND

For Andre Gumprecht, being out of Hyundai A-League action for 10 rounds gave him a chance to hone some other sport skills, as he explains, "I did a lot of swimming and got out and did some cycling after three weeks of initial rest. It was something different for me as I'm so used to just being a footballer."

"Obviously these are sports you must do by yourself so it was good to get back training with the boys," the just-turned 32 year-old explains in his fused German-Aussie accent.

After a nasty tackle against Victory in round four kept the terrier-like Teutonic

Mariner out of the Hyundai A-League for weeks, he was welcomed back to Bluetongue in the 78th minute of the round 14 match against Adelaide United with genuine love from the adoring Central Coast faithful.

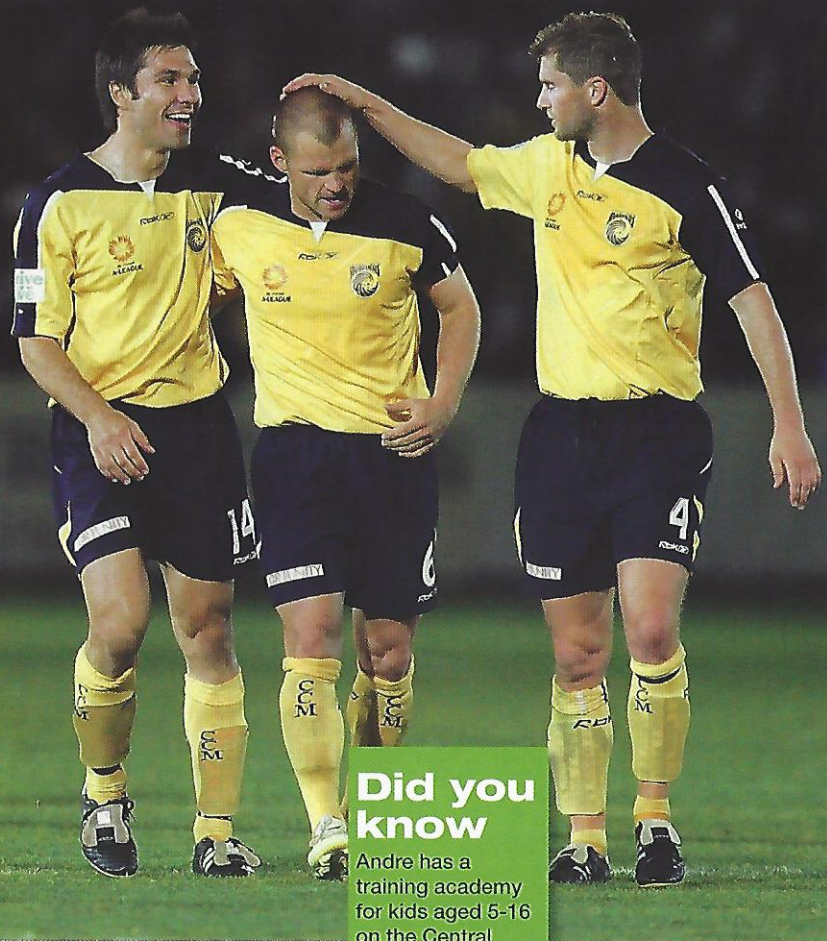
And in the next few weeks, Central Coast's midfield will be even more energised for the task ahead when their midfield metronome is fit and at his lung-busting best.

The wandering Mariner

"We're gonna need a full 90 minutes if *The Full90* wants to

Head to head

Total matches: 7
Hyundai
A-League: 5
Pre-season: 2
Mariners wins: 5
Glory wins: 1
Draws: 1



Did you know

Andre has a training academy for kids aged 5-16 on the Central Coast. It's called SoccerPro, and you can read more at www.soccerpro.com.au.

talk to me about my career," jokes a high-spirited Andre Gumprecht over the raucous din of the Mariners at the bowling club that adjoins Bluetongue stadium.

Well, he's right. A list of clubs as long as his arm, from Germany, to Italy, Singapore (where he turned out for Singapore Armed Forces) and Australia, pop up on this happy go lucky German's resume.

From the smaller outfits such as SC Wattenscheid 09 and FSV Zwickau to Italy's Lecce and one-time club of Michael Ballack, Bayer Leverkusen,

Gumprecht has 11 clubs to his name. One such club is Perth Glory.

Gumprecht says he has nothing but good memories of playing for Perth Glory,

today's visitors to the Coast, with whom he won a grand final in 2002.

"It's such a lovely place is Perth. The guys were great to work with and I really loved my time there. Everything about it... I can't speak highly enough about my time there," he says.

The Mariner midfielder adds he's looking forward to seeing old teammates and Perth stalwarts Jamie Harnwell and

PLAYERS TO WATCH

PERTH

Jamie Harnwell

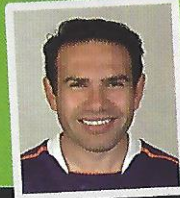
What an amazing turnaround for this defender. Four goals in two games as a striker put him in the category of "hottest hitman in the Hyundai A-League". He's strong in the air and highly committed, which means Alex Wilkinson and Tony Vidmar will have their hands full when this Glory star comes to the Coast.



POTENTIAL MATCH-WINNER

Stan Lazaridis

Despite a season beset by niggling injuries, Laza is still a huge Hyundai A-League star and likely to cause the Mariners' defence all sorts of problems with his runs from deep. If he gets his crosses in, he'll have the likes of Harnwell, Young, Glavas and Despotovski all capable of getting on the end of his service from the left.



Leo Bertos

In the mould of Stan Lazaridis, this much-travelled 24 year-old Kiwi has added real bite down the flanks this year at Members Equity and should blossom next season into a genuine Hyundai A-League star. Coach Ron Smith has been impressed this season with his phenomenal work rate, too, while NZ national coach Ricki Herbert plans to use him in the Kiwis' World Cup qualifiers for 2010.



MARINERS

Adam Kwasnik

Adam has blossomed into a genuine threat upfront this season. With a more aggressive attitude and confidence in his ability, this joker in the Mariners' squad is bringing plenty of smiles to the Yellow Wave fans with his goals this season.



POTENTIAL MATCH-WINNER

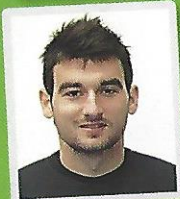
Nik Mrdja

Nik's return from an injury that kept him out for over a season has been the feel-good story of this campaign. And it's Nik's presence upfront that is creating more chances for the likes of Kwasnik and Petrie.



Mile Jedinak

What a brilliant find again from Lawrie McKinna. Mile has quietly and effectively added even more steel and heart to the Mariners' defensive lines since signing from Sydney United in the NSW premier league, where he played alongside Glory's hot striker Luka Glavas.



Did you know

Nik Mrdja may have mixed feelings playing against Glory today, the striker was born in the WA capital and has turned out for Perth clubs Bayswater, Kingsway Olympic and Perth SC as well as Perth Glory in the old NSL.

Bobby Despotovski in the Glory line-up.

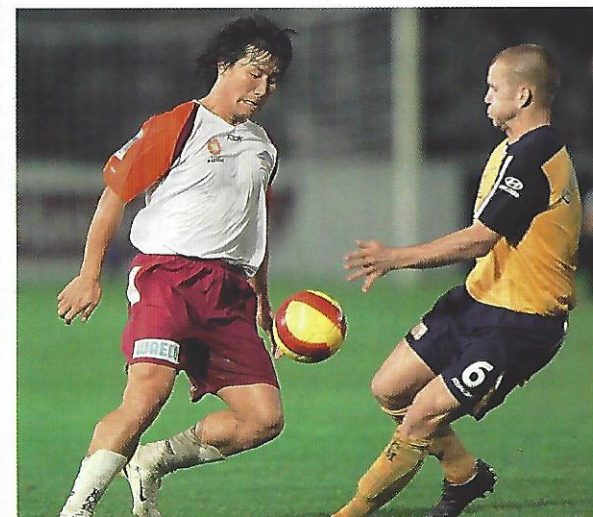
But Glory won't have such great memories of Bluetongue, they lost the 2005 Pre-Season Cup here and the last time they played in Gosford, in round nine, keeper Jason Petkovic suffered a nasty leg injury as did midfielder Simon Colosimo in a sickening clash.

However, in round two this season, the Mariners saved their performance of the campaign for that day, as Perth easily won 2-0 at Members Equity. Nevertheless, the Mariners hold a commanding lead in the head-to-head between the two.

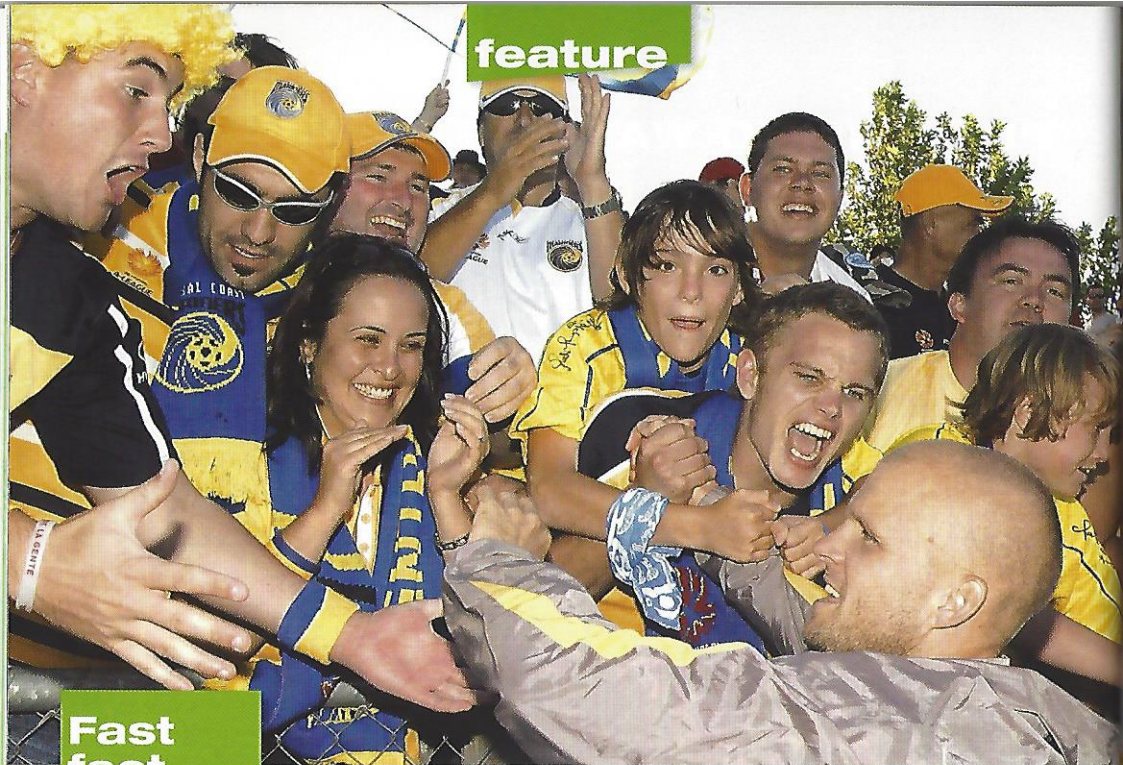
Stepping up

Stepping up is a favourite phrase for 'Gumps'. And he says this is the season for the 'Yellow Wave' to step up and take their football to a new level.

But if anyone on the Coast thought



feature



Fast fact

Nik Mrdja scored the very last goal ever in the old National Soccer League. In 2004, Nik scored the winner in the NSL Grand Final playing for today's opponents Perth Glory against Parramatta Power (who had Andre Gumprecht in their side).

world," he told *FourFourTwo* magazine recently. "You look at clubs that come up from the second division to the first. All the emotion they have goes into the first season and maybe they do well. But the second year...

"For us, it's the same situation. We've had a fantastic first season in a new league, but if we all don't step up – including me – we will be struggling and I will be struggling. However, I think we

season two of the Hyundai A-League would be easier, Andre soon clears that up. He's been a professional in Europe too long and he knows only too well the pitfalls of professional football.

"The second year is the most difficult for any side in the

have stepped up."

And the results are showing, with a top four spot there for the taking, particularly with a swag of home games to finish off the home and away.

Home sweet home

Gumprecht is very much in love with the Coast. And he loves the fans too. So much so, that when the Mariners played in Melbourne in round 11, he joined some of the travelling Mariners in the stand at Telstra Dome. "Our fans are amazing," he says of the experience.

What's more, there is his booming football training academy for youngsters, "It's not about babysitting kids during the holidays, it's about learning how to play like a professional," he says. A wife and son at home complete the blissful picture of his life these days.

As he offers a handshake, I ask him if I come back to the Coast in 10-15 years' time, will I find Andre Gumprecht still here coaching kids and watching Mariners games?

He smiles and slowly nods. "I reckon you will." ■

Did you know

Andre Gumprecht played for NSW All-Stars against Libya last year in a friendly match in Sydney. The Aussies won 1-0. The Libyans were using the game as a World Cup qualifying warm-up match but it was Gosford-born Andrew Clark who scored the winner.



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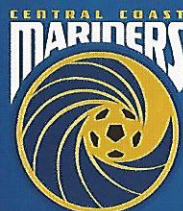
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LAST...

Song you heard: Chingy "Pull Me Back"
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TV you watched: European Champions League
Meal you cooked: "Greg actually did teach me his Thai green curry this week. I could pull it off I reckon."

feature

FIRST DEGREE BURNS

NATHAN BURNS HAS IGNITED THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE WITH HIS PACE AND SKILL. NEXT, THE STOVE / **JACK SNAPE**



You're only 18 – growing up did you watch Romario play very often?

Not really. When I was young I didn't really watch that much football so I can't really remember him playing.

You were only six during the 1994 World Cup...

Yeah. I remember getting up and watching the World Cup but I don't remember a lot of the players!

Last time the Knights visited it was a close finish. Do you remember the match well?

We started off well and were up 3-0. Once we got the first goal we got a couple. But then they came back at us, and got it back to 3-2. We were a bit worried because they stole points from us in the first match and they looked like doing it again. We were a little bit shaky for a while but then we got the fourth

goal and we were pretty comfortable after that.

Is the team coming good as the season progresses?

Yeah I think we are. We're all in good shape, we've got hardly any injuries. We're shaping up well for the finals I reckon, peaking at a good time.

What about the first match against the Knights, the 1-0 defeat?

It was a tough game so early on in the season. It was pretty much going to come down to who wanted it the most. They scored an absolute cracker of a goal which is probably still going to be goal of the season. Sitting on the bench, I was pretty excited because I was just hoping to get on and get a bit of time.

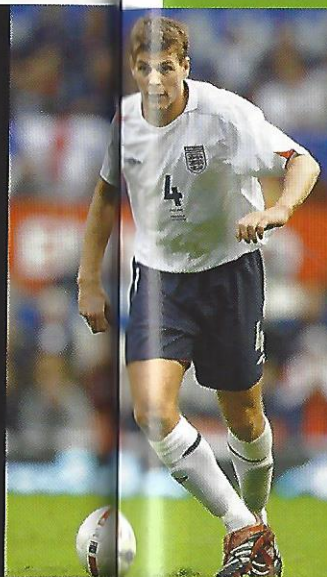
Were the Knights very different across the two games?

In the first game, they had [Jonas] Salley in midfield. He dominated our midfield in that game and he played really well. If they could have kept him all season they could have done a bit better. When he

Separated at birth?

We've all heard the stories about Nathan Burns coming from Blayney in NSW, but here in *The Full90* bunker, we're sceptical. You see, we reckon there's more than a passing resemblance to Liverpool's Steven Gerrard. Their football talents are both remarkable too... so if any friends or family reckons they can shed some light on the situation, drop us a line!

But who would we prefer in our side? We'd definitely go for Burns... Gerrard is ageing and shoots wildly over the bar far too often for our liking. *RY*



got injured it kind of killed the team a little bit. They've definitely improved, but have just lacked scoring goals.

Where do you see yourself in the pecking order now?

It is difficult with all the players back. You do have to give respect to the older players. To break into one of their spots you've got to be playing well and be in good form, and hopefully take your chances. It's pretty hard to see myself starting in the next couple of weeks because everyone's here, especially with Romario. Hopefully I will make the squad, even that will be a challenge at the moment.

With the senior players around you, do you try to incorporate aspects of their game into yours?

Yeah. Like Qu's got a different style of finishing. It's pretty effective but sometimes it doesn't look good. That

"TO BREAK INTO ONE OF THEIR SPOTS YOU'VE GOT TO BE PLAYING WELL AND BE IN GOOD FORM, AND HOPEFULLY TAKE YOUR CHANCES."

FAVES

Footballer:

"This year I'm a big fan of Louis Saha and Drogba."

Music: "I'm a bit of a house boy, a bit of dance."

Movie:

Remember the Titans

Actor: "I'd have to say Jessica Alba."

Dream date:

"Jessica Alba definitely."

Food: Chicken schnitzel

Hobbies: "I love water skiing when I'm home, and riding motorbikes."

toe poke he does, it seems to go in a lot! Fernando and Carl Veart, they help me out a lot too.

Where do you enjoy playing most?

I can play out-and-out striker but I much prefer playing in behind the strikers, where Fernando plays because it gives me that little bit of extra space and movement. Because I'm not the biggest player in the team, sometimes playing up front with these huge centre backs, I may not be as effective.

Which player has given you the toughest match so far?

When we were playing Melbourne last time I was being man-marked by Kevin Muscat. That was a challenge and a half. I was looking over my shoulder checking where he was.

Did you speak to him after the game?

I think we won that game so he didn't say much.

What did he do that made things so difficult?

He tried to intimidate me a little. A

couple of nudges here and there off the ball to let me know he was there. And every time I touched the ball he was down my throat, just to pretty much put me off my game.

You live with your teammates Greg Owens and Bruce Djite, but Greg says he does all the cooking.

Yeah he does. I'm not denying that.

How does he go?

Not bad in the kitchen.

What about compared to your mum?

Your mum's always the best cook, but he's not far off.

Does he have any specialities?

Not a bad Thai green curry.

He also says you guys spend a fair bit of time on the couch. What's a typical day?

Train hard in the morning, then recover all day because we work so hard! Pretty much lay on the couch and watch TV.

It's only a two-bedroom place,

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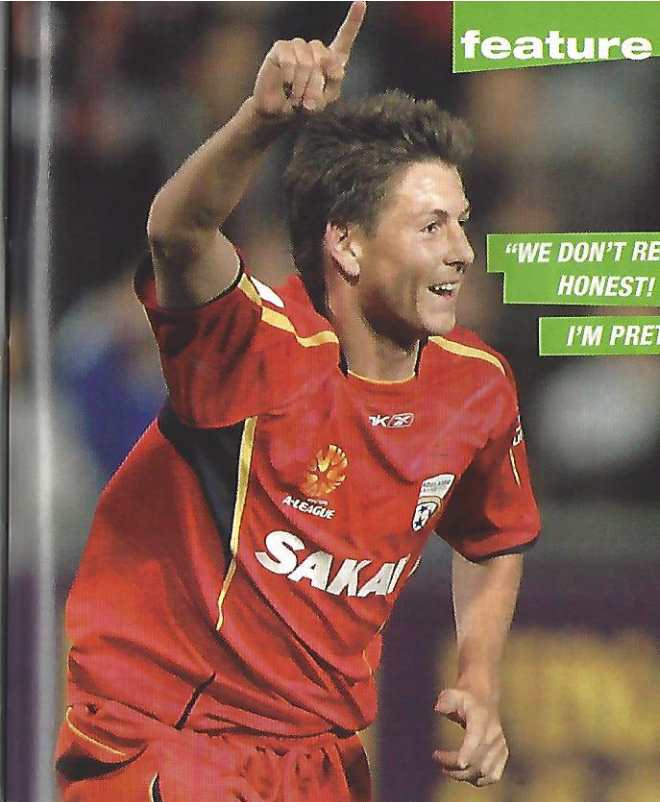
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feature

"WE DON'T REALLY HAVE THE QUICKEST TEAM TO BE HONEST! WE'VE GOT SOME PACE OUT WIDE.

I'M PRETTY MUCH UP THERE WITH THE SPEED."

things professional...

Yeah. He's a big kid. I look after him. He does the cooking but I look after him! We're full football fanatics me and Bruce, so it keeps him focused, and makes sure he's always doing the right thing.

What do you rate as your big strength as a player?

I'll say my speed definitely.

How do you compare with your teammates?

We don't really have the quickest team to be honest! We've got some pace out wide. I'm pretty much up there with the speed.

so do you and Bruce share a room?

Nah! Bruce is on the couch. We got him a fold out. He doesn't even have a room he just bums round. He can sleep anywhere though. He's got a problem. He just sleeps anywhere.

Anywhere in particular?

We'll say meetings...

Does he get a clip across the head from the coaches?

He's never been caught. I don't know what it is, they just don't notice!

Are those boys your best mates at the club?

Yeah definitely. I'll spend pretty much every minute with Greggo. And Bruce... I've been mates with him since 13, living in Sydney, playing in the same team. Definitely my best mates.

Greg says it's good to have you guys around because it keeps

Dacked!

On the field, Nathan Burns' arrival in the Hyundai A-League has been all about embarrassing defenders. For Burns' though, his most embarrassing moment came some years ago, well away from the football pitch. "Probably getting dacked at school in assembly when I was in year six," he says. No doubt by the school team's dastardly defender hellbent on revenge.

In a sprint race who would you be looking at?

Definitely Daddsy [Travis Dodds], he's probably the quickest.

And who is usually propping up the pack?

I don't think I have to say this name, everyone probably knows - [Angelo] Costanzo!

What areas of your game would you like to improve?

Probably just physical presence. I suppose I'll work on that mainly in the off-season, put on a few kilos but not lose my sharpness. That should come in with time anyway, I should bulk up naturally.

Are you still growing?

They said the plates in my knee are still growing. That could be another centimetre but who knows. But hopefully I do grow a little bit. ■

WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW?

WITH THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE HEADING TOWARDS ANOTHER BIG FINALS SERIES, AND THE QANTAS SOCCEROOS STARTING A NEW ERA IN ASIA, IT'S TIME TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT FOOTBALL IN AUSTRALIA / **ZAC CONNOLLY**

Q1 How many left-footers made the Qantas Socceroos squad for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals?

Q2 How many matches has Adelaide United's Travis Dodd played for the Qantas Socceroos?

Q3 In which German town were the Qantas Socceroos based during the group stage of the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

Q4 Which five players from the qualifiers against Uruguay did not make the squad for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals?

Q5 Which Croatian player scored a second minute free-kick against the Qantas Socceroos in their



final group match at the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

Q6 Who refereed the Group F match between Croatia and the Qantas Socceroos at the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

Q7 Who was the Qantas Socceroos' leading scorer at the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

Q8 How many Brazilians currently play in the Hyundai A-League?

trivia

Q9 How many matches did Italian playmaker Benito Carbone play for Sydney FC?

Q10 With which German club did Central Coast Mariners midfielder Andre Gumprecht start his professional career?
A) Werder Bremen **B)** Bayer Leverkusen **C)** VfB Stuttgart **D)** Energie Cottbus

Q11 Which club did midfielder Bobby Petta play for before signing for Adelaide United for the Hyundai A-League 2006/07 season?

Q12 To date who is the all-time leading goal scorer in the Hyundai A-League?

Q13 Which two Hyundai A-League teams will compete in the 2007 AFC Champions League?

Q14 On what date will the Hyundai A-League 2007 Grand Final be played?

Q15 Against which country did Sydney FC manager Terry Butcher make his England debut in 1980?

Q16 How many New Zealanders are currently on the books for the New Zealand Knights?

Q17 How many Qantas Socceroo caps does Mark Viduka have?

Q18 Which Everton teammate collided with Qantas Socceroo Tim Cahill, injuring his knee in their 1-0 loss to Aston Villa this season?

Q19 Which rival English Premier League side attempted to sign Blackburn and Qantas Socceroos captain Lucas Neill before the start of this season?

Q20 Who has been acting as Qantas Socceroos assistant

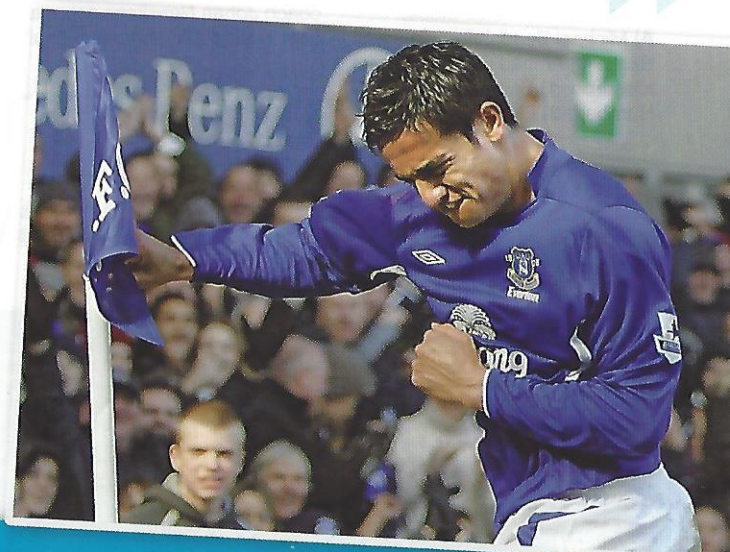
coach since Graham Arnold became manager?

Q21 What was the score between New Zealand Knights and Queensland Roar in round 11 of the Hyundai A-League?

Q22 Who scored the winner for Melbourne Victory against Perth Glory in round 12 of the Hyundai A-League?

Q23 How many top-level clubs has Queensland Roar striker Damian Mori played for in Australia?

Q24 Who did Ron Smith replace as Perth Glory manager for the Hyundai A-League 2006/07 season?



Q25 Which Qantas Socceroos player made the shortlist of 50 for the prestigious Ballon D'Or award for the best player in Europe in 2006?

Q26 Which two Qantas Socceroos started both the second FIFA World Cup playoff match against Iran in 1997, and the opening 2006 FIFA World Cup Group F match against Japan?

Q27 Which four young players were brought in by Guus Hiddink to train with the Qantas Socceroos in Europe prior to the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

Q28 Which Hyundai A-League team started the 2006/07 season with only one goalkeeper in the squad?

Q29 Match these Qantas Socceroos with their clubs.
A) Michael Beauchamp **B)** Josip Skoko **C)** Ahmad Elrich **D)** Patrick Kisnorbo. **1)** Leicester City **2)** FC Nurnberg **3)** Fulham **4)** Wigan

Q30 Which player scored the first



goal of the Hyundai A-League 2006/07 season?

Q31 Adelaide United midfielder Ross Aloisi last represented Australia against which team in 1999?

Q32 Which of Qantas these Socceroos did not attend the AIS? **A)** Mark Viduka **B)** Joshua Kennedy **C)** Harry Kewell **D)** Brett Emerton

Q33 In what year did former Qantas Socceroos assistant coach Johan Neeskens score a goal in the FIFA World Cup final?

Q34 Who is the captain of Perth Glory?

Q35 How many appearances

did Romario sign to make for Adelaide United?

Q36 Who is the manager of New Zealand Knights?

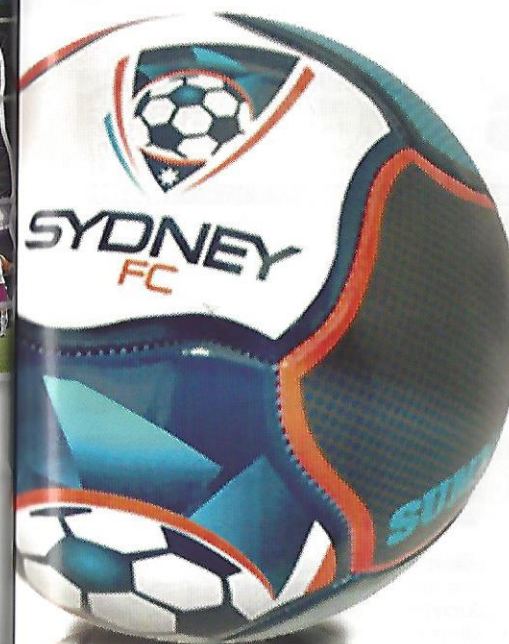
Q37 What is the Hyundai A-League slogan?

Q38 Which Perth Glory player previously played for Floreat Athena, West Adelaide, West Ham United & Birmingham City?

Q39 What is the name of the Central Coast Mariners fan club?

Q40 What job did Perth Glory manager Ron Smith hold before he took up the role?

trivia



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ANSWERS

01: 6 02: 2 03: Friedrichshafen was town the hotel was in. 04: Ahmad Elrich, Joel Griffiths, Lubo Milicevic, Michael Thwaite, Tony Vidmar
 05: Dario Sman 06: Graham Poll 07: Tim Cahill, 2 goals 08: 7 09: 3 010: B) Bayer Leverkusen 011: Bradford City, England 012: Archie Thompson, 15 goals 013: Adelaide United and Sydney FC 014: February 18, 2007 (if you looked that up you're a cheat and get no points!)
 015: Australia 016: 4 017: 37 018: Lee Carlsley 019: Liverpool 020: John Kosmina 021: 1-1 022: Grant Brebner 023: 7 024: Alan Vest
 025: Tim Cahill 026: Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell 027: Neil Kilkenny, Stuart Musialik, Kristian Sarkies, Kaz Patalla 028: Newcastle Jets
 029: A) 2, B) 4, C) 3, D) 1 030: Kevin Muscat, Melbourne Victory 031: Manchester United 032: C) Harry Kewell 033: 1974 034: Jamie Harwell 035: 4 036: Barry Simmonds 037: "It's football, but not as you know it." 038: Stan Lazaridis 039: The Mannators 040: National technical manager

Fixtures 2006-07

ROUND	DATE	FIXTURE	SCORE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1	Fri 25 Aug 06	Melbourne Victory vs Adelaide United	2-0	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00pm
	Sat 26 Aug 06	Queensland Roar vs Perth Glory	3-0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sun 27 Aug 06	New Zealand Knights vs Newcastle Jets	0-0	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	5.00pm
	Sun 27 Aug 06	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners	1-0	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00pm
ROUND 2	Fri 1 Sep 06	Newcastle Jets vs Queensland Roar	2-3	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00pm
	Sat 2 Sep 06	New Zealand Knights vs Adelaide United	1-0	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	12.30pm
	Sat 2 Sep 06	Melbourne Victory vs Sydney FC	3-2	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	7.00pm
	Sun 3 Sep 06	Perth Glory vs Central Coast Mariners	2-0	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	3.00pm
ROUND 3	Fri 8 Sep 06	Adelaide United vs Newcastle Jets	5-1	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30pm
	Sat 9 Sep 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Queensland Roar	0-0	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.00pm
	Sun 10 Sep 06	New Zealand Knights vs Melbourne Victory	0-3	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	12.30pm
	Sun 10 Sep 06	Perth Glory vs Sydney FC	1-1	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	3.00pm
ROUND 4	Fri 15 Sep 06	Queensland Roar vs New Zealand Knights	5-0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00pm
	Sat 16 Sep 06	Adelaide United vs Perth Glory	3-0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30pm
	Sun 17 Sep 06	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets	2-2	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	3.00pm
	Sun 17 Sep 06	Melbourne Victory vs Central Coast Mariners	1-0	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00pm
ROUND 5	Thu 21 Sep 06	New Zealand Knights vs Sydney FC	0-1	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00pm
	Fri 22 Sep 06	Queensland Roar vs Adelaide United	0-0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00pm
	Sat 23 Sep 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Newcastle Jets	1-1	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.00pm
	Sun 24 Sep 06	Perth Glory vs Melbourne Victory	1-2	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	3.00pm
ROUND 6	Thu 28 Sep 06	New Zealand Knights vs Central Coast Mariners	0-1	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00pm
	Fri 29 Sep 06	Newcastle Jets vs Perth Glory	0-3	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00pm
	Sun 1 Oct 06	Melbourne Victory vs Queensland Roar	4-1	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	5.00pm
	Mon 2 Oct 06	Adelaide United vs Sydney FC	1-4	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30pm
ROUND 7	Fri 6 Oct 06	Adelaide United vs Central Coast Mariners	3-1	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30pm
	Fri 6 Oct 06	Perth Glory vs New Zealand Knights	1-0	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	8.00pm
	Sun 8 Oct 06	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar	1-1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	3.00pm
	Sun 8 Oct 06	Newcastle Jets vs Melbourne Victory	0-2	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00pm
ROUND 8	Fri 13 Oct 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Sydney FC	3-1	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00pm
	Sat 14 Oct 06	Newcastle Jets vs New Zealand Knights	3-0	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	7.00pm
	Sun 15 Oct 06	Melbourne Victory vs Adelaide United	0-1	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	5.00pm
	Sun 15 Oct 06	Perth Glory vs Queensland Roar	1-2	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00pm
ROUND 9	Fri 20 Oct 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Perth Glory	2-1	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00pm
	Sat 21 Oct 06	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory	1-2	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	7.00pm
	Sun 22 Oct 06	Queensland Roar vs Newcastle Jets	0-1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	5.00pm
	Sun 22 Oct 06	Adelaide United vs New Zealand Knights	4-2	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30pm
ROUND 10	Fri 27 Oct 06	New Zealand Knights vs Melbourne Victory	0-4	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00pm
	Fri 27 Oct 06	Newcastle Jets vs Adelaide United	2-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00pm
	Sat 28 Oct 06	Queensland Roar vs Central Coast Mariners	1-1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sun 29 Oct 06	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory	1-1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00pm
ROUND 11	Fri 3 Nov 06	Melbourne Victory vs Central Coast Mariners	3-3	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	8.00pm
	Sat 4 Nov 06	Newcastle Jets vs Sydney FC	1-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	7.00pm
	Sun 5 Nov 06	New Zealand Knights vs Queensland Roar	1-0	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	5.00pm
	Sun 5 Nov 06	Adelaide United vs Perth Glory	3-2	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30pm

fixtures

ROUND	DATE	FIXTURE	SCORE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 12	Thu 9 Nov 06	Melbourne Victory vs Perth Glory	1-0	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	8.00pm
	Fri 10 Nov 06	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights	4-0	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00pm
	Sat 11 Nov 06	Queensland Roar vs Adelaide United	0-1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sun 12 Nov 06	Newcastle Jets vs Central Coast Mariners	3-1	EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00pm
ROUND 13	Fri 17 Nov 06	Queensland Roar vs Melbourne Victory	0-2	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sat 18 Nov 06	Perth Glory vs Newcastle Jets	2-1	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00pm
	Sun 19 Nov 06	New Zealand Knights vs Central Coast Mariners	0-2	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	5.00pm
	Sun 19 Nov 06	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United	2-1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00pm
ROUND 14	Fri 24 Nov 06	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar	3-0	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00pm
	Sat 25 Nov 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Adelaide United	2-0	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.00pm
	Sun 26 Nov 06	Melbourne Victory vs Newcastle Jets	0-1	Telstra Dome, Melbourne	5.00pm
	Sun 26 Nov 06	Perth Glory vs New Zealand Knights	4-1	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	4.00pm
ROUND 15	Fri 1 Dec 06	Adelaide United vs Melbourne Victory	1-3	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30pm
	Sat 2 Dec 06	Queensland Roar vs Perth Glory	1-0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sun 3 Dec 06	New Zealand Knights vs Newcastle Jets	1-1	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	5.00pm
	Sun 3 Dec 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Sydney FC	0-0	Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00pm
ROUND 16	Thu 7 Dec 06	Queensland Roar vs Newcastle Jets		Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Fri 8 Dec 06	Melbourne Victory vs Sydney FC		Telstra Dome, Melbourne	8.00pm
	Sun 10 Dec 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Perth Glory		Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00pm
	Sun 10 Dec 06	Adelaide United vs New Zealand Knights		Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30pm
ROUND 17	Thu 14 Dec 06	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory		Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00pm
	Fri 15 Dec 06	Adelaide United vs Newcastle Jets		Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30pm
	Sat 16 Dec 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Queensland Roar		Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.00pm
	Sun 17 Dec 06	Melbourne Victory vs New Zealand Knights		Olympic Park, Melbourne	7.00pm
CHRISTMAS BREAK					
ROUND 18	Thu 28 Dec 06	Perth Glory vs Adelaide United		Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00pm
	Fri 29 Dec 06	New Zealand Knights vs Queensland Roar		North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00pm
	Sun 31 Dec 06	Central Coast Mariners vs Melbourne Victory		Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	6.00pm
	Mon 1 Jan 07	Newcastle Jets vs Sydney FC		EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	6.00pm
ROUND 19	Thu 4 Jan 07	Adelaide United vs Queensland Roar		Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30pm
	Fri 5 Jan 07	Newcastle Jets vs Central Coast Mariners		EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00pm
	Sun 7 Jan 07	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights		Aussie Stadium, Sydney	6.00pm
	Sun 7 Jan 07	Perth Glory vs Melbourne Victory		Members Equity Stadium, Perth	6.00pm
ROUND 20	Thu 11 Jan 07	Central Coast Mariners vs New Zealand Knights		Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00pm
	Fri 12 Jan 07	Melbourne Victory vs Queensland Roar		Telstra Dome, Melbourne	8.00pm
	Sun 14 Jan 07	Adelaide United vs Sydney FC		Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	5.30pm
	Sun 14 Jan 07	Perth Glory vs Newcastle Jets		Members Equity Stadium, Perth	6.00pm
ROUND 21	Fri 19 Jan 07	Newcastle Jets vs Melbourne Victory		EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00pm
	Sat 20 Jan 07	Queensland Roar vs Sydney FC		Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00pm
	Sun 21 Jan 07	New Zealand Knights vs Perth Glory		North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	7.00pm
	Sun 21 Jan 07	Central Coast Mariners vs Adelaide United		Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.00pm

FINALS	WEEK 1		SEMI-FINAL 1st LEG	WEEK 3	PRELIMINARY FINAL
	Fri 26 Jan 07 or Sun 28 Jan 07		1 vs 2	Sun 11 Feb 07	Loser (1 v 2) vs Winner (3 v 4)
	Fri 26 Jan 07 or Sun 28 Jan 07		3 vs 4		
FINALS	WEEK 2		SEMI-FINAL 2nd LEG	WEEK 4	GRAND FINAL
	Fri 2 Feb 07 or Sun 4 Feb 07		1 vs 2	Sun 18 Feb 07	Winner (1 v 2) vs Winner
	Fri 2 Feb 07 or Sun 4 Feb 07		3 vs 4		(Preliminary final)

ALL TIMES LOCAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE



**one,
two**

Melbourne are back to their winning ways after beating Adelaide 1-3. Danny Allsopp and Archie Thompson currently sit on top of the goal scorers tally, helping make Melbourne virtually unstoppable. Can Sydney FC contain this dynamic duo?

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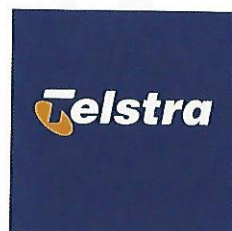
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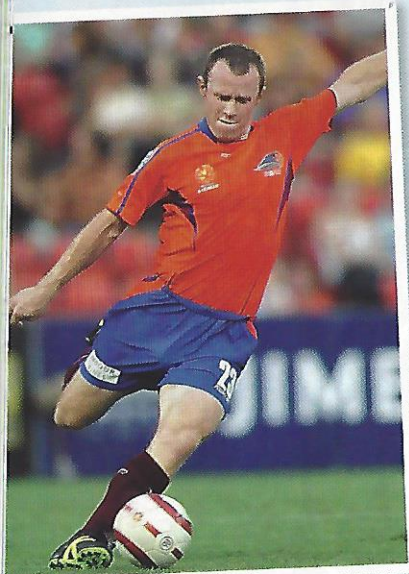
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IN MY OWN WORDS

THE QUEENSLAND ROAR DEFENDER IS LIVING HIS DREAM OF BEING A PRO FOOTBALLER... AND IS A MAN THAT WON'T DIE WONDERING / **RICHIE YOUNG**



I am *Stuart McLaren*.

I play for *Queensland Roar*.

I grew up in *Queensland*.

As a kid I wanted to be a *footballer*.

I love my *family*.

I drive people up the *wall*.

I love *eating out*.

I think too much about *football*.

I get embarrassed when I'm *wrong*.

I wish I never got *injuries*.

My first memory is letting the handbrake off in my *Dad's car*.

I'm hopeless at household *chores*.

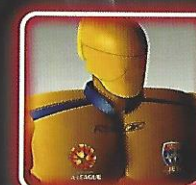
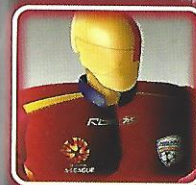
I promise I'll never *quit*.

Friends say I never take a *drink*.

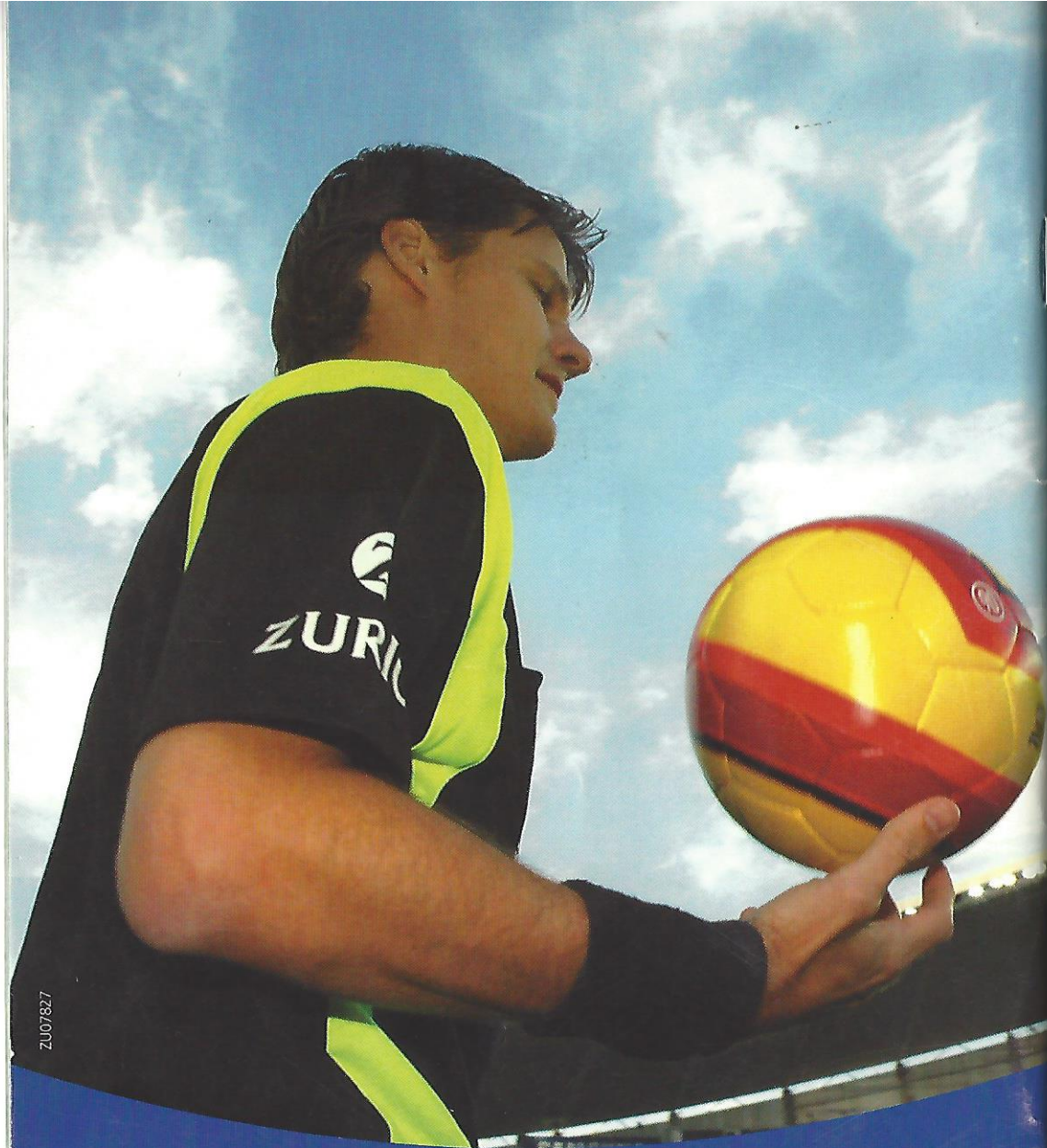
When I'm not playing football I am with my *daughter and dogs*.

INSTANT EXPERT

- **Number** 6
- **Date of birth** 28 August 1975
- **Weight** 79kg
- **Height** 182cm
- **Position** Defender



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